

Hafa Adai!

Multi-Purpose Center tagged as a vaccination site. PAGE 3
Bigger turnout at this year's Youth Congress elections. PAGE 5

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Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, third from left, explains the importance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's approval of the \$88.73-million Community Disaster Loan during a news briefing yesterday in the Office of the Governor's conference room. Also in the photo are, from left, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Governor's authorized representative to FEMA for Super Typhoon Yutu Virginia Villagomez, and FEMA Region IX Recovery Office director Sheryl Cochran.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI OK'd for \$88.73M disaster loan from FEMA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Torres-Palacios administration announced yesterday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved an \$88.73-million Community Disaster Loan that will settle the CNMI's outstanding obligations

associated with its response to Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in the Commonwealth last October 2018.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who led a press briefing in the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capi-

See FEMA on Page 4

1,200 receive LWA benefits

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has issued a total of 1,200 Lost Wages Assistance payments and the department is working on issuing payments to over 6,000 more.

Speaking at a news briefing last Friday, Benavente said the department has already issued LWA payments to 1,200 individuals totaling \$700,000 and will be processing 6,000 more throughout the week.

"Throughout the week, See LWA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 19, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,083
Fully Vaccinated:	13,918
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,479
Fully Vaccinated:	2,121
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,859	20	7,879
Recovered	7,682	13	7,695
Active	28	20	48
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	148,294		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	162	0	162
Traced via Travel Screening	126	0	126
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	34		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Fire engulfs vehicle in Finasisu

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A fire engulfed a vehicle at Cool Laundry in Finasisu during the early hours of Saturday and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical

Services is still trying to determine the cause of the fire. There were no reported injuries or fatalities as a result of the fire.

According to a report from DFEMS spokesperson Robert Mojica, the Department of Public Safety reported at approximately 4:58am last Saturday, April 17, a vehicle fire on Tun Joaquin Doi Road by Cool Laundry in Finasisu. DFEMS' Engine 1 and Rescue 1 responded to the location at 5:03am, with Rescue 1 arriving on scene first at 5:10 am.

Firefighter III Robert Camacho, who arrived on Rescue 1, stated that the vehicle was

See FIRE on Page 4

Australia-NZ travel bubble opens with joy, tears



Passengers from New Zealand are welcomed by drag queens as they arrive at Sydney Airport in Sydney, Australia, Monday, April 19, 2021, as the much-anticipated travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand opens.

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—As the passengers walked a little dazed through the airport gates, they were embraced one after another by family members who rushed forward and dissolved into tears.

Elation and relief marked the opening of a long-anticipated travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand at the Wellington Airport on Monday. Children held balloons and banners and Indig-

See TRAVEL on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Gourmands of Saipan, rejoice! Kensington's Meisho Restaurant is reopening on Saturday.

PAGE 11



WORLD

A passenger train derailed Sunday north of Cairo, killing at least 11 people.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

A prequel to "Mad Max" movie starring Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth will be filmed in Australia.

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Local

EDHP and mayor's office to inspect villages for illegal trash

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Environmental Health Disease Prevention, in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, will start inspecting villages to address improper trash, or garbage disposal, that contributes to litter in the community.

According to CHCC, they

will team up with the Saipan Mayor's Office's routine village beautification program as a means to resolve improper trash or garbage disposal that contributes to litter and harbor rats and vermin in the community.

"MOS staff frequently observe trash scattered on the streets or sidewalks during their routine village cleanup. This not only affects our environment, but more impor-

tantly impacts the mental and physical wellbeing of residents," said CHCC in a statement about this new venture.

Citing Public Law 14-15, CHCC said it is a public inconvenience and a health hazard for garbage or trash to be disposed in a public or private trash container without a tight-fitted lid or cover. CHCC urges the community to properly cover and secure their garbage or trash and that

surrounding areas should be clean and free of debris.

CHCC said they will support, and help, the Saipan Mayor's Office's efforts in keeping the island clean by conducting premise inspections in line with the MOS field schedule, starting in Kagman.

EHPD inspectors will inspect houses and businesses to assess compliance with trash confinement and dis-



File photos shows illegally dumped garbage.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS 5DR HB STOCK #: SP21R0040 Mileage: 9,975</p> <p>NOW \$14,999*</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS STOCK # SP21R0039 Mileage: 12,276</p> <p>NOW \$14,999*</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS STOCK # SP21R0038 Mileage: 11,824</p> <p>NOW \$14,999*</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS STOCK # SP21P0065, Mileage: 65,681 STOCK # SP21P0063, Mileage: 5,469 STOCK # SP21P0064, Mileage: 8,004 STOCK # SP21P0062, Mileage: 3,080</p> <p>NOW \$15,999*</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA SIENNA STOCK # SP21F0012, FWD Mini-van, Passenger, 8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Super White, Mileage: 73,341</p> <p>NOW \$16,999*</p>
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Keeping the island clean

Residents and businesses are encouraged to do the following to keep our island clean and healthy:

- Properly secure and dispose of trash or garbage in approved waste container. Use of cardboard boxes, buckets, or other open containers are prohibited by law.

- Ensure waste containers have tight fitting lids and are kept closed at all times.

- Ensure sufficient storage between collection or disposal.

- Clean up all trash around your premise, especially those that can hold water such as loose tires, bottles,

buckets, cans, etc.

- Regularly clean and empty water tanks and other containers used to store water, and making sure these containers have screens to cover any openings.

- Frequently change the water in flower vases and other containers that routinely contain water, including pet dishes.

- Inoperable vehicles parked on public easements also provide harborage for vermin and rodents. Inoperable vehicles will be tagged by the Zoning Office and forwarded to the Mayor's office for removal. (CHCC)

positional requirements, as well as identification and removal of potential breeding sites for rats and other infestations, which could be sources of infectious pathogens. The public is advised to tie up or confine dogs for the safety of the inspectors and staff of the mayor's office.

If a person fails to comply with the requirements, CHCC says it will result in a Notice of Violation and civil fine of \$100 for each violation, plus an additional \$50 for each day for failure to comply with the law.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, his staff has been out on the field since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We're

here Monday to Friday, we work outside, taking care of the community, the villages. ...We continue to do our community functions, taking care of the debris in the village in order to prevent disease, we pick up junk car, and we do that on a daily basis," said Apatang.

Apatang said even with their daily operations, cleanliness in the community is prioritized.

For households, CHCC said trash can be disposed of at the Lower Base Transfer Station, which is open from 8am to 1:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, then 8am to 1pm on Saturday. On Wednesday and Sunday, it is closed.



Apatang

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe has been identified as another vaccination site for the CNMI.

Torres says he has no qualms in renominating Manglona

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres disclosed Friday that he will renominate U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to serve another term on the bench.

When asked during a radio news briefing about a House resolution that encourages him to submit to President Joe Biden a recommendation for the renomination of Manglona, Torres said he has no qualms in supporting Manglona's renomination.

"In fact, I already asked our counsel to start working on that letter of support," said Torres. He did not elaborate.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced last week House Resolution 22-8 that encourages Torres and CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to submit to Biden their recommendation for the renomination of Manglona to serve another 10-year term as chief judge of the District Court for the NMI, and to recognize her for her distinguished career. Demapan said the Legislature is proud to express its support for Manglona's renomination.

'Child care will get \$36.22M from ARPA'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Biden administration announced over the weekend that child care in the Marianas will receive \$36.22 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Sablan also disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that the CNMI Department of Labor is getting \$497,248 to speed up payments of unemployment assistance and develop an unemployment insurance program for the Marianas.

On child care funding, the delegate said the \$36,220,162 will help child care providers stay open safely, keeping their employees on payroll and helping families with young children cover the cost of this service.

Sablan said that making sure pre-school-age children have a safe environment while parents are at work is one of his primary concerns as chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education.

Sablan said the American Rescue Plan Act money for

Speaking at a radio briefing last Friday, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said the Multi-Purpose Center will be used to accommodate people living in the southern part

Sablan, who supports Manglona's renomination, said in a comment he made on a *Saipan Tribune* story about Manglona's expiring term on the bench: "For [Rep.] Demapan's information, Chief Judge Manglona's name has been submitted to President Biden. Just so you know, Governor Torres initially did not want to join me in the submission for the reason that Judge Manglona signed his search warrant."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation launched a search and seizure operation on Torres' home and his tax records in 2019, based on a warrant that Manglona had signed.

In 2011, Manglona became the first person from the CNMI to be appointed to a federal judge court.

Then-governor Benigno R. Fitial recommended Manglona to then-president Barack Obama for nomination as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI. In January 2011, Obama nominated Manglona. The U.S. Senate confirmed her on July 27, 2011. She assumed office on July 30, 2022.

Manglona's term will expire this July 28.

the Marianas comes from two sources—the Child Care Stabilization Fund and the Child Care Development Fund.

He said the Child Care Stabilization Fund supplies \$22,282,113 to help providers in the Marianas reopen or stay open, maintain safe and healthy learning environments, keep workers on payroll, and get mental health support for educators and children.

The Child Care Development Fund, on the other hand, supplies \$13,934,049 that may be used by the CNMI government to subsidize child care for families that need help, increase compensation for early childhood workers, and meet other care needs in the Marianas.

On funding to speed unemployment, he said that Congress set aside \$497,248 for the insular areas in the CARES Act in March 2020 and that the U.S. Interior Department announced the award on Wednesday. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Multi-Purpose Center tagged as a vaccination site

of Saipan. The choice of the Multi-Purpose Center has the support of the Federal Emergency Management Administration, which will pay for the use of the facility, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, he added.

"With these efforts, in consultation with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, we are looking, with to double the number that we are doing at the Medical Care and Treatment Site, so we can reach our goal [of achieving] herd immunity in the CNMI," said Villagomez.

It was not immediately learned when the vaccination drive will begin at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The CNMI is projected to have herd immunity by mid-June, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. As of April 15, CHCC had already administered 35,000 COVID-19 vaccine shots. The CNMI has an estimated population of 55,000. Herd immunity is when a large number of a population is vaccinated enough to provide some indirect protection to the unvaccinated ones.

Speaking at the same radio briefing, Muña said that 48%

of the CNMI's adult population has already been vaccinated and 36% of the adult population are now fully vaccinated. As of April 19, at 6pm, CHCC's vaccination dashboard shows there has been 36,965 shots that have already been administered.

According to Torres, who also spoke at the radio briefing, the use of the Multi-Purpose Center as another vaccination site will help the CNMI reach its herd immunity goal. "The whole goal [is] we get our community safe by getting vaccinated. We bring back our tourism, slowly but surely and

with the right approach, working with all of our partners here. ...We [can] all work together [on] how we [can] bring back our tourism," he said.

Once tourism picks up on island, Torres said, his administration will have a better view of where the CNMI stands in the coming years.

Currently, the CNMI has one vaccination site, which is the MCATS at the upper-level parking lot of the Commonwealth Health Center on Navy Hill. CHCC has also set up a pop-up vaccination site in San Antonio for the elderly population.

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Man pleads guilty to strangulation

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has sentenced

a man to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to a count of strangulation.

Franklin Cepeda pleaded guilty last

April 13 to a count of strangulation. Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced him last week to seven years' imprisonment,

FEMA

From Page 1

tal Hill yesterday, said that the total amount—\$88,734,930—represents the remainder of the total FEMA loan available and approved at 0.875%.

"We would like to acknowledge and thank our FEMA partners and key staff from the government who diligently followed through to ensure the CNMI accomplishes the necessary steps required to obtain this loan," Torres said.

The projected revenue loss for the CNMI from Yutu (the year of the disaster plus three years) was \$506,837,411. This brings the available CDL loan amount to a maximum of \$93,734,930.

FEMA already gave the CNMI \$5 million at 0.25% interest last Sept. 30. The \$88.73 million yesterday is the remainder of the loan amount.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios credited the collaboration and hard work of the Office of the Governor, the Governor's authorized representative to FEMA for Super Typhoon Yutu, the Legislature, and the Department of Finance in getting the work done. "We're in a better situation today than we were last week," Palacios said.

FEMA Region IX Recovery Office director Sheryl Cochran, who attended yesterday's news briefing, said that acting regional administrator Tammy Littrell thanks the CNMI for its cooperation and teamwork in the last two and a half years following Yutu.

"We know that this [loan] is going to help you guys continue with recovery and build the CNMI back stronger. And we're still going to be here to help you every step of the way," she said.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said this loan allows the CNMI to rebound as the Commonwealth is still recovering from the effects of Yutu and a lot of vendors still need to be paid and a lot of services and projects still need to continue. "And these funds will be able to help us," Atalig said.

Virginia Villagomez, who is the Governor's authorized representative to FEMA for Yutu, said that when a major disaster was declared for the CNMI after Yutu, that automatically triggered the activation of some federal programs. With this loan program, though, Villagomez said they had to wait until the following fiscal year to see the effects of the devastating storm on the islands.

Villagomez said the program can also only be activated at the request of the state.

She cited the many works that have been done, including the help of Delegate Gregorio Kili Sablan (Ind-MP), that, according to her, were happening during the pandemic and during the time that the administration was preparing the CNMI budget.

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, (R-Tinian), who, along



Seated from left, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Governor's authorized representative to FEMA for Super Typhoon Yutu Virginia Villagomez, and FEMA Region IX Recovery Office director Sheryl Cochran. Standing, from left, are House vice speaker Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan), House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Senate vice president Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

with House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), attended the news briefing, said the approval of the loan is "a great day for the CNMI."

"It couldn't have come at a better time because we're going to be able to address some of our obligations that have been in the books for a while," Hofschneider said. "I commend the administration and FEMA and everybody else that's involved to make this a reality. And of course, the Legislature, we gave our approval based on a joint resolution."

Villagomez said the CNMI appreciates FEMA's help and that the loan is an engine that the CNMI needs to keep going to generate revenue and to provide services. He said the loan will help pay off obligations to vendors. "So we are very grateful for any assistance to help us get us back on our feet," he said in an interview.

In recalling Yutu's devastation, Torres said the magnitude of the damage sustained from Yutu were significant and stabilizing critical infrastructure services was estimated to be months away. He said the magnitude of the storm's devastation exceeded the CNMI's capacity and they acknowledged that their partnership with FEMA and U.S. Department of Defense who were prepositioned to the CNMI pre-landfall tremendously helped the Commonwealth with its response condition.

"The presence of our partners gave us assurance of the unexpected," he said.

Torres said relief supplies started to arrive as soon as ports became accessible for ships to dock and the runway was clear of debris for humanitarian flights to land.

Torres said all this coordination resulted in 23 sea voyages, 48 intra-island barge shipments, and 152 flights moving humanitarian relief supplies from the continental U.S. to the CNMI—all tied to expenditures the government must provide for its non-federal cost share and much more.

The governor said the government's revenues were severely affected, prompting the government to drastically reduce its projected revenue by more than 50%, including the

reduction in government hours.

Torres said it was in February 2020 when they first inquired with FEMA regional administrator Robert Fenton Jr. to explore the possibility of applying for the CDL Program. Unlike the other FEMA programs, the CDL program requires the State to request that it be activated. He said this loan program is available to local governments adversely affected by a major disaster. He said the program provides operational funding in a form of a loan for local governments to continue to operate after a substantial loss of revenue caused by the disaster.

The CNMI's request was submitted on Feb. 12, 2020. Three days later, Fenton recommended to the Recovery Directorate to activate the program and designated the appropriate representative from Region IX to work with the CNMI to begin the CDL process.

On May 12, 2020, the CNMI was prequalified and eligible to apply for the CDL loan for up to 25% of the projected loss of government revenues or \$93,734,930. However, Torres said, FEMA's authorization on the loan program was capped at \$5 million.

The CNMI was required to complete a 10-part CDL application package and provide a collateral security in a form of a joint resolution by both House and Senate. The 21st Legislature subsequently passed the joint resolution.

Since FEMA's authorization was limited, Torres said they contacted Sablan to meet and discuss how his office can assist to obtain approval from the U.S. Congress to grant FEMA an authorization to exceed the \$5 million cap.

Sablan then met with Fenton to obtain additional information on FEMA's authorization.

Torres said the meeting with Sablan on May 13, 2020, and with Fenton on May 15, 2020, was favorable to the CNMI as it resulted in the passage of H.R. 133, which included provisions to allow FEMA to exceed the loan disbursement. It was signed by then-president Donald Trump last Dec. 27.

all suspended except for one year. That remaining year shall be served day for day without the possibility of parole. Kim-Tenorio gave Cepeda credit for 89 day of time served.

Following his release, Cepeda will be placed on probation for five years and must submit to examinations and evaluations at the Community Guidance Center during his probation.

According to court documents, Cepeda strangled or attempted to strangle a household member last Jan. 11, 2021.

Cepeda's jury trial for a separate case that was scheduled for April 14

has been vacated. In that case, Cepeda was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

As part of the plea agreement with the Attorney General's Office, the CNMI would dismiss that case for his guilty plea for strangulation.

The victim in both cases was Cepeda's girlfriend.

According to court documents, the victim told the police that Cepeda gets jealous and gets controlling and sometimes won't let her out of their room.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

enous Maori performers welcomed the arrivals home with songs.

The start of quarantine-free travel was a long time coming for families who have been separated by the coronavirus pandemic as well as to struggling tourist operators. It marked the first, tentative steps toward what both countries hope will become a gradual reopening to the rest of the world.

Danny Mather was overcome to see his pregnant daughter Kristy and his baby grandson for the first time in 15 months after they flew in from Sydney for a visit on the first flight

after the bubble opened. What did they say to each other?

"Not a thing," he said, laughing. They just hugged. "It's just so good to see her and I'm just so happy to have her back."

Kristy Mather said it was overwhelming to be reunited with her family and it was amazing the bubble had opened.

"I wished it had happened earlier, but it's happened now," she said. "I just wanted to get on that first flight because you never know, it may go south. Let's hope it sticks around."

Danny Mather said he wanted to keep New Zealand safe from the virus but also thought the time was right to open the bubble.

FIRE

From Page 1

fully engulfed when he got there. The fire was placed under control at 5:43am.

The DFEMS report did not indicate the type and make of the vehicle.

The Division of Fire Prevention Arson Investigation, led by Firefighter III Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, said that the fire is still under investigation and more information will be given out as they become available.

The incident is the second of its kind in 2021. Last March 10, DFEMS

responded to a vehicle fire on Capital Hill just below the turn to Medicaid.

At around 11am on March 10, DFEMS Engine 2 and Medic-2 from the Garapan Fire Station were dispatched to the location. Engine 2 arrived on scene at around 11:12am and the fire was reported under control at 11:17am.

No individuals were injured and no treatment was provided at the scene for medical complaints in relation to the fire.

Preliminary investigation by the Division of Arson Investigation revealed that the fire got started in the car's engine compartment.

LWA

From Page 1

starting Monday, we are processing a total of 6,000 LWA claimants in the next few days," she said.

LWA is available to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claimants who received PUA payments or were cleared for payment from the Aug. 1, 2020 to Aug. 15, 2020.

LWA is an employment assistance program that receives funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Disaster Relief Fund. LWA allows distribution of an additional \$300 weekly supplement to individuals who received unemployment benefits and was implemented to replace the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance that expired in July 2020.

Eligible claimants don't have to apply for LWA because DOL will go through its HireMarianas portal to determine LWA eligible individuals and will process them for payments.

Benavente said there was a delay in benefit disbursements because of issues with the portal system. "We continue to process the LWA granted by FEMA. They were also at the

same time PUA claimants. We did come to a point in the portal system where things were not cooperating online but we are going to try and resolve all those portal issues so that LWA claimants can continue to receive their payments," she said.

Benavente said individuals can expect up to \$900 from LWA as it was only a three-week long benefit period.

"This is just a three-week benefit period so the max amount is \$900. I received reports that there were many LWA claimants who received the \$900 payment through direct deposit," she said.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig assures eligible claimants that the funds are in and available and once all issues have been cleared up, the department will start processing and issuing checks as soon as possible.

"We've drawn down the funds from FEMA for LWA. [The] Department of Finance is ready to disburse these funds so it's looking like the challenge is separating the LWA from regular PUA applicants. I believe we had a little glitch in our system in terms of our portal that tracks all those claimants who are eligible for LWA, so we're hoping to get that list finalized," he said.

Bigger turnout at this year's Youth Congress elections

Over 73% of 2,134 registered student voters cast their ballots for their desired candidate in the biennial CNMI Youth Congress elections, which were held on April 7, 8, and 15. According to a press statement, the 18th Youth Congress election went off without many hiccups, with most schools having a smooth process from check-in to casting their ballots. Acting Legislative Bureau director Perry J. Tenorio attributed this to consistent communication between the bureau and school principals, allowing them to adapt the process to their students' benefit.

"At the start of the planning,

we knew that it would be a different election than in years' past, so with the Youth Congress office and each of the high school principals, there was an active dialogue to ensure that no major problems would arise either with registration, logistics and with conducting the election itself, and it all worked out in the end," Tenorio said.

He said that special accommodations were also made to ensure that elections were held in the safest manner. "The students' health and wellbeing are important to us, just as the mandate to hold the elections this year is as well. The high school

principals enforced the safety protocols as they have been since their students returned to face-to-face learning, and our poll supervisors were also there to facilitate that these and other safety regulations were in place during their time in the voting places," said Tenorio.

Holding the elections was a lengthy process due to the blended learning schedule in use by the Public School System. Youth Congress coordinator Luis John Castro said, "For a lot of our administrators, this election was a first for them, and it was the first time too that voting was

stretched over an expanded amount of days. So we made sure that we were understanding in this degree to give the principals the ability to have all students vote despite the circumstances we are dealing with," Castro was also grateful for the dialogue he had with all the principals who oversaw the planning and logistics for the poll sites saying, "Working together for greater efficiency and ensured a smooth election. We could not have done this without the cooperation of the school principals."

Both House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider are excited to work with the

new senators-elect on pressing matters important to them. The speaker, who ranks as one of the youngest members of the Legislature noted that with the new challenges our youth face, he is hoping that new ideas can come out through their dialogue and legislation. Hofschneider on the other hand, noted that he hopes to see the incoming Youth Congress make use of their full potential. He and other senators have also expressed a desire to dialogue with them to get their input on issues regarding not only their schools but their respective talk districts.

Staffers from Villagomez's office as well as the office of Rep. Leila C. Staffler also as-

sisted the Legislative Bureau during the voting.

The newly elected senators-elect will be sworn in on May 15, 2021, at 10am at the Legislature Building on Capital Hill. Taking their seats at the table this term will be senators-elect Liekeila'akata T. Iakopo from Kagman High School, Abriette T. Manglona of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr.-Sr. High School, incumbent Tinian Jr.-Sr. High School senator Cielo G. Long, senators-elect Easton Dela Cruz from Marianas High School, and YuriHana DLG Sasamoto from Mount Carmel School.

The CNMI Youth Congress was created through Public Law 8-27. (AP)

Asia Hilario continues to shine, empower women

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan-born Asia Hilario continues to make the CNMI proud, this time after being named one of the Top 10 empowerment coaches to look out for in 2021, according to an article published on the Yahoo Finance website.

Hilario, who was recognized as a Woman of the Year in 2019 by a California-based women empowerment organization called "Women on the Rise," shares her latest accomplishment with nine other empowerment coaches: Kristina Licare, Jessica Pinili, Jessie Ereddia, Annie Calvaneso, Krista Weber, Mary Zagarian, Claudette Malone, Stacey S. Crawley, and Laura Sylvester.

The Yahoo Finance article described Hilario as a self-

love coach, a philanthropist, a crisis counselor for CrisisTextline, a women empowerment mental health and wellness blogger and a podcaster.

Hilario credits self-help books and therapy for helping her go through so much in her personal journey, catapulting her to where she is now.

In an earlier interview, Hilario said that by lifting other women, an entire community and society can elevate. "Women are powerful beings, who can do incredible things, and by empowering them (giving them resources, offering support, encouraging them, educating them, giving them a voice)" she said.

Part of her advocacy in women empowerment is breaking the stigma surrounding mental health. "I'm trying to de-stigmatize seeking men-

tal help for those who need it. The more we talk about mental health, the braver people will be to not only seek help, but to speak about it as well. The biggest struggle I've had in the past was feeling like I was alone in my struggles. I want to use my voice to make sure that no one else feels that they're alone in their struggles," she added.

Now pursuing her vision in San Francisco, Hilario

continues to strengthen economic, social and educational potential of women all around the world. The Yahoo Finance article mentioned how she is conquering every goal on her list by using her voice through empowerment and self-love coaching in helping other women find their inner power to transform their lives.

Hilario never fails to reach out to the people in her home island. In October last year, she shared with *Saipan Tri-*

bune how to guard one's emotional wellbeing during the pandemic. "...Emotional instability comes from the emotional pain of grief. In a Harvard study I recently read, it spoke about grief and the five stages relating to the pandemic, that grief doesn't just come in the form of losing someone. It also comes in the form of losing normalcy—losing our routines, losing our freedom to go outside and to go certain places to travel, etc., and

even losing a sense of safety," she said. "Find balance in the things you're thinking. If you feel the worst image taking shape, make yourself think of the best image. Make yourself come into the present as much as you can. Since we cannot predict the future and we stress focusing on the past and what could have been, we must make it a habit to live in the present and we can do this by meditating and practicing mindfulness."



Hilario

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/ELC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 4TH, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

"COMMUNITY DISEASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CDMS)"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-21-2027

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Office Space Lease

Submission /Closing Date: April 23, 2021 Time: 1:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 14, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com •
Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2021

Opening date: April 15, 2021 Closing date: May 05, 2021

Positions: (1) Grants Coordinator-Saipan
(1) Electrician-Saipan
(1) Ports Police Officer I-Saipan
(1) General Maintenance II-Rota Seaport

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 05, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING APRIL 23, 2021

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

**DOWNLOAD SLIDES at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/>

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m817ea6abb7191d225b59c5fde02f0a41>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1996273817##), or Webex Mobile App

Benefits Workshop Topics:
Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance



Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447, 234-6866, 234-7670



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“NMHC”) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) Program’s Action Plan (“AP”), this is to notify the general public about these proposed substantial and non-substantial amendments to the CDBG-DR AP and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments. The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP.

Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts. A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC’s CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Conversely, non-substantial amendments to the Action Plan are not subject to citizen participation but NMHC decided to include a non-substantial amendment to the said Plan in this Public Notice for informational purposes only.

Furthermore, all action plan amendments will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Last, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program’s Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or found on Section 5 on the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 78 - 83). A copy of the Action Plan, as amended by these proposed changes, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670) 433-9213 • Fax: (670) 433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670) 233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670) 532-9410 • Fax: (670) 532-9441



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ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Sángi Táil 5 A. reel Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“NMHC”) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) “Program’s Action Plan (“AP”), bwulul mille nge ebwe arongar toulap reel pommwol liiwel ikka e lo bwe “substantial” me “non-substantial” ngáli CBDG-DR me ayoorai ngáli aramas ikka re tuútá me ebwe mmwel rebwe isiisilong kkapas wóol pommwol liiwel kkal. Rebwe ngaleer toulap eliigh ráál sáangi ráálil igha e akkatéwowa Arongorongol Toulap yeel ebwe isiisilong kkapas wóol pommwol liiwel kkal ngáli CDBG-DR AP. Liiwel ikka e lo bwe “substantial” ebwe yoor ngáre eyoor liiwel loll progróoma reel “benefit/eligibility criteria”, aschuulongol me siiwel sáangi mwóghutughut, ngáre “reallocation of substantial amounts”. Ebwe bwal yoor “substantial amendment” ngáre eyoor progróoma iye e ayoorai siiwel iye e aluulói “five million dollars” (\$5,000,000). “Substantial amendments” ebwe ayoorai “reasonable opportunity” loll eliigh ráál ngáliir aar toulap fóós. Ebwe yoor ammwelil alongal liiwel sáangi NMHC aar CDBG-DR Program me ebwe yoor “necessary and reasonable justifications”. Alongal “substantial amendments” ebwe bwal aschuulong milikka e amwirimwiritiw”

1. Ebwe ffat ifa me óutol iye ebwe aschuulong, siiwel, ngáre liiweli;
2. Ebwe ffat e mweteló iya fundo ngáre e tooto me iya; me
3. “Updated and revised budget” mwiril “re-allocation of funding”.

Siiweli mwáliili we e ghoomw, “non-substantial amendments” ngáli “Action Plan” ese ffil bwe toulap rebwe tuutá nge ngáre NMHC e disidiy bwe rebwe aschuulong “non-substantial amendments” ngáli Plóno iye re apasa llól Arongorongol Toulap bwulul arongorong schagh.

E bwal schuulong, alongal liiwelil “action plan” eyoor me CNMI CDBG-DR website me www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com me emmwel ubwe bweibwogh pappid reel bwulasiyo kkemwu e lo Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta reel schóó kkemwu esóor yaar “access” ngáli “Internet”. E ówtcheya rebwe arongar toulap reel fundo ikka e lo ngáliir toulap rebwe tuutá llól ammwelil me lemelemil reel ikka e bwal lo bwe “unmet need”. NMHC rebwe aghatchú le aronga toulap reel Progróomal CDBG-DR sáangi mwóghutughut ikka e amwirimwiritiw:

- Arongorong me llól simbwing
- Arongorong sáangi reedio
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Ottimwo, NMHC ebwe ayoorai afal ngáli igha rebwe ayoorai sóssól-, sóssól-, me e “moderate-income persons”, e schuulong aramas ikka eyoor aar “disabilities”, tuufey me aramas ikka re lo bwe “Limited English Proficiency (LEP) rebwe bwal tuutá me yááyá llól mwóghutughutúl CDBG-DR me llól lemelemil “policies” me mwóghutughut llól “CDBG-DR Program’s Citizen Participation Plan”. Emmwel ubwe schuungi mille re ghommwal óóleghi me óutol “Citizen Participation Plan” reel aar CNMI CDBG-DR website me: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com ngáre bwal wóol Táil 5 wóol CDBG-DR Action Plan (peigh 78 – 83). Pappidil “Action Plan”, igha re liiweli sáangi pommwol liiwel, emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me CNMI-CDBG-DR website me: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com ngáre inamwo ifa reel bwulasiyol NMHC ikka e lo Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta.

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NUTISIAN PUBLIKU

Sigun para i Seksiona 5 A. gi “Northern Marianas Housing Corporation” (“NMHC”) i “Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”)” na Prugráman “Action Plan” (“AP”), para u manafanungu’ i henerát publiku put esti i manmaproponi na “substantial” yan “non-substantial” na amenda siha gi CDBG-DR AP yan para u maná’i i publiku tiempu para u fampattisipáo yan i uputunidát para u famanoppi’ gi esti i manmaproponi na amenda siha. I henerát publiku debi na u ma’intrega hálum i upiñon-ñiha gi hálum trenta (30) dihas ginen i fetchan publikasion nu esti na Nutisia put esti i tinilaika ni manmaproponi siha gi CDBG-DR AP. I “substantial” na amenda siha manaprisisu yanggin guaha tinilaika gi hálum i prugráman benifisiu/“criteria” i kuálifikáo, “addition/deletion” nu i aktibidát, o sino “reallocation i “substantial amount”. I “substantial” na amenda siempri lókkui’ prumisisu yanggin kuatkuet na tinilaika siha gi prugráma umupus i singku miyon pesus (\$5,000,000). I “substantial” na amenda debi na u pribeni rasonáppli na uputunidát (maseha 30 dihas) para upiñon publiku. Todu i tinilaika siha debi na u madukumentu ni Prugráman NMHC’s CDBG-DR para u pribeni todú i dos nisisáriu yan rasonáppli na “justification”. Todu i “substantial” na amenda siha siempri ingklusu i mantinattiyi:

1. I eksakto na aidentifikasion nu mánu na sinahguan maná’yi, mafunas, pat matulaika;
2. Kláru na diskripsion nu ginen mánu/para mánu i fundu; yan
3. I más nuebu yan maribisa na “budget” dispues di i “re-allocation” nu i saláppi’.

Gi inátlabis, i “non-substantial” na amenda siha para i “Action Plan” ti manmasuhetu para páttisipasion siudadanu láo i NMHC madisidi para u ingklusu i “non-substantial” na amenda para i mamensiona na Plánu gi hálum esti na Nutisia para infotmasion ha’ na rason siha.

Yan más, todú i “action plan” na amenda siha siempri managuaha gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com yan siña machuli’ kopia gi ufisinan i NMHC yan i CDBG-DR siha ni gaigi iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta para etyi siha i ti siña ma’akes i “Internet”. I ninatutungu’ i publiku mampus impottánti sa’ esti na fundu dinipendi meggai gi páttisipasion publiku yan i tetenan ni ti matakka’ nisisita para u ma’ebalua. I NMHC siempri ma’usa i mantinattiyi na “avenues/outlets” para u manafanungu’ i publiku put i Prugráman CDBG-DR:

- Nutisia gi hálum gaseta
- Anunsiu Rediu
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Uttimu, i NMHC siempri ha chuli’ rasonáppli na manera para u na’siguru na i “very low-, low-,” yan “moderate-income” na petsona siha, kuntuodu i táotáo ni gai disibidát, i gai inamku’ yan i táotáo ni “Limited English Proficiency (LEP)” na managuaha akses para u más makumprendi i prugráma yan parehu na uputunidát para u fampattisipáo gi hálum esti impottánti na aktibidát i CDBG-DR ni kumunfotma yan i manmakátkátga na “policies” yan “procedures” ni gaigi gi hálum i Prugráman CDBG-DR Citizen Participation Plan.” I manmamensiona yan kumplidu na “Citizen Participation Plan” siña ma’akes gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña masodda’ gi Seksiona 5 gi CDBG-DR “Action Plan” (páhina 78 – 83). I kopian i “Action Plan”, komu ma’amenda ginen esti na tinilaika na priniponi siha, siña ma’akes gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña machuli’ kopia gi maseha mánu na ufisinan i NMHC iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for DanDan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant’s preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Public warned of high surf this week

A high surf advisory remains in effect this week, while a small craft advisory is in effect until 5am Thursday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and

compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet and dangerous rip currents is present in west-facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan all this

week. Also, seas 8 to 10 feet expected in coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until 5am chst Thursday.

Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip cur-

rents can drag you out to sea.

Distant Typhoon Surigae has slowed once again. That is making the waves bigger than previously expected, and they could last longer as well. An upgrade to high surf warning is a possibility later this week.

Residents of Saipan and Tinian are advised to avoid venturing near reef lines facing west. It will be risky to swim or snorkel in these conditions. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Seas will likely diminish Thursday, only to build again on Sunday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid navigating in these hazardous conditions. **(PR)**

Discarded face masks among trash collected at PDM

One of the legacies of the COVID-19 pandemic is the preponderance of face masks in every nook and cranny of the island. That's what volunteers of PDM Promoters experienced last Saturday when they conducted their April monthly cleanup at Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding environs.

"Our volunteers did bush cutting, trimming plants and eliminating tall weeds along Paseo de Marianas, and picking up trash and taking out debris from vacant lots. I just noticed that there's a lot of used face masks scattered as they were disposed of improperly. I hope our residents would be more responsible and don't just throw their used face masks in the street and throw them in the trash bins," said PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa.

Aside from properly disposing of dozens of face masks, the volunteers—16 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and seven staff from Kinpachi Restaurant—collected a to-

tal of 500 lbs of trash during their two-hour cleanup from 9am to 11am along Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, AMP Road, Beach Road, and its connecting alleyways.

Siwa said last Saturday's cleanup is only PDM Promoters' second of the year as their planned activity last month was aborted due to small cluster of positive COVID-19 cases on Saipan.

"We did our volunteer cleanup last Saturday here at the Garapan area together with some members of Saipan Awaodori kids. We were supposed to join the Islandwide Cleanup on April 24 but all the beaches were already adopted by other group volunteers so we proceeded with our cleanup last Saturday," she said.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are usually held every Saturday and are supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the non-profit's major sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL

Foundation.

Siwa said T-Galleria and

TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the cleaning materials needed for their cleanups. Kinpachi

Restaurant, meanwhile, provides meal and snacks for volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promot-

ers will be at it again in March when it conducts its second monthly cleanup of 2021. **(Saipan Tribune)**



The 16 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and seven staff from Kinpachi Restaurant pose for a picture after picking up 500 lbs of trash in PDM Promoters' April cleanup of Paseo de Marianas last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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EDITORIAL

All drugs come with risk. The COVID-19 vaccines are no different

All medicines, including those sold over the counter, come with a risk to the user. And as those otherwise breezy commercials for pharmaceuticals remind us, the most serious risk may include death. COVID-19 vaccines are no exception.

That's why federal regulators responsibly recommended a pause in the use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine and started to investigate a half-dozen cases of a rare and dangerous blood-clotting disorder, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, in younger women who'd recently been immunized. One of those cases was fatal. The cases are strikingly similar to those recorded in Europe among mostly younger women who received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, which relies on similar technology to generate antibodies.

This is how the regulatory process for new drugs is supposed to work when a serious side effect emerges. The pause gives officials time to educate health care providers on how to detect and treat the disorder, while also alerting the public to potential dangers, examining whether the cases are caused by the vaccine and weighing the overall risks and benefits of continuing to use the vaccine.

Now federal regulators are grappling with the way forward that balances the relatively low risk posed by the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (seven reported cases of blood clots out of about 7.5 million shots administered in the U.S.) against the danger of slowing the U.S. mass immunization effort as infections surge again in some parts of the country.

The pause should not drag on indefinitely, but that's what may be happening. On Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices adjourned without deciding whether to recommend continued use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the U.S. Instead, the committee will wait until some undetermined time in the future to reconvene and possibly decide then.

It's understandable that these vaccine experts would want more data, considering that about half of the doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine have been administered in the last two weeks and there may be more potential cases of the clotting disorder. If there's a spate of them in the next few days—which seems unlikely, given the rarity so far and the low incidence of the disorder among those who received the AstraZeneca vaccine—then the committee members' caution will be justified.

But inaction has consequences. In this case, it means the 9.2 million doses of the one-shot vaccine that have been delivered to immunization sites will sit unused on shelves instead of protecting 9.2 million people from COVID-19. President Joe Biden assured the public Tuesday that there would be enough doses of the vaccines produced by Pfizer

See COVID-19 on Next Page



Here comes the fourth wave (or not)

So are we having a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. or not? University of Minnesota's Michael Osterholm has forecast a COVID "Category 5 hurricane" this spring. To some people, a look at hard-hit Michigan could justify this level of alarm.

But Paul Offit of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia could also claim to be right with his much more optimistic view that vaccines will mostly tame the pandemic from this point forward. After all, U.S. death rates and hospitalizations are not spiking and may never return to anything close to the fall/winter peak.

Predictions have become a Rorschach test where people can find doom or hope or reassurance. But what's becoming clear is that public health officials don't really know why this pandemic rises here and falls there.

It's no longer plausible that it's all happening because of mask mandates—or tightening or loosening restrictions more broadly. If restrictions and rules were the only factor at play, the current surge wouldn't be in Michigan but in a state that has reopened more aggressively, such as Texas or Florida. And cases wouldn't be so high in those previous paragons of virtue, Maine and Vermont. And why would cases be rising now in Canada?

In an interview last month, University of California, San Francisco physician Vinay Prasad brought up a few factors that might influence regional and national waves. One is initial conditions. In the first wave, some states in the Northeast had many more silent cases than others, so cases stayed high in New York and New England despite draconian policies.

Another is variants. Michigan might have been unlucky to have been seeded with more people with the more infectious variant of the virus, B.1.1.7.

Then there could be seasonal effects that are more complex than just fluctuations in temperature. Scientists have been suggesting environmental factors from pollen exposure to air conditioning to humidity.

Regional differences in COVID-19 peaks may also reflect irregularity in the way cases are reported, said Prasad. There are huge differences state to state in how many people are tested, which people are tested, and how positives are tallied up.

And then there's just plain random chance—perhaps the hardest factor for people to talk about or accept.

Prasad says there's been a consistent bias toward pessimistic predictions, because in the epidemiology community, there's a sort of moral exemption for making overly dire forecasts. But if you predict fewer cases, hospitalizations or deaths than come to pass, you're seen as downplaying the pandemic, "and you're a villain."

Then there's the assumption that our non-pharmaceutical measures are a major driver of cases—something that might be true

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She has written for the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology. For more articles like this, please visit us at [bloomberg.com/opinion](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion)



but isn't necessarily supported by data. Mask mandates mostly affect mask wearing outdoors, where many experts say the benefit is negligible. People in no-rules Florida still wear them in supermarkets, and people in rule-following Rhode Island have been contracting disease in private gatherings, where mandates don't have much reach.

Prasad sees the bias toward restrictions as part of a broader bias in the medical community that overestimates the power of intervention. If a person has a cancer that never would have grown, and there's extensive treatment, it's assumed that the person would have died if left untreated, for example. But he says if you suggest that some cancer screenings are leading to unnecessary treatment, you are accused of being pro-cancer.

A sort of fibbing has also become accepted practice in the public health community, says risk communication consultant Peter Sandman. The idea is that it's okay to mislead people in order to encourage healthier behavior. Big and small risks have been lumped together.

That may not be working well with the pandemic. Some people have seemingly decided to ignore public health advice altogether, while others have been scared into being hypervigilant.

A story in this week's Wall Street Journal, for example, profiled people who were too afraid to return to work. Several reported that they took stay-at-home orders so seriously that they never left home except to attend to family gatherings. These people didn't seem to have been informed that walks or going to the store are minuscule risks compared to indoor gatherings—whether or not they are with family.

Even if we can't predict the size or timing of a next wave, public health officials do know that the disease will continue to kill as long as some people don't qualify for the vaccine or can't book an appointment. This would be a good time to focus the message on what is known about risks, and be more upfront about what's still not understood.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

State legislatures are on the cusp of ruining smartphones for the whole world

In the United States, state legislatures are now at risk of ruining smartphones the way Europe ruined the web. Bills in at least Rhode Island, North Carolina and Florida would force companies like Apple to allow every developer on their platform to use any payment system they want to collect funds from users. Apps, in other words, could circumvent the App Store payment system as well as the guidelines and practices that Apple enforces to make the whole experience a good one for consumers.

Get ready to enter your credit card number, a lot. Under current App Store rules, users pay Apple and Apple pays the app developers, who never see user billing data. By setting up their own billing relationship with the customer, the developers would lose a smaller percentage of their revenue to fees, but this would come at a cost to consumers' privacy and security, forcing them to give out their billing data—including credit card numbers and home addresses—for every \$1.99 transaction on the phone.

There are security and privacy considerations with this information being so widely available. After years of smartphone use, hundreds of individual developers, many of them tiny operations in foreign countries, could have access to your information. All it takes is for one of them to get hacked for your information to leak all over the world.

How about when it's time to cancel your in-app subscription?

Under Apple's carefully designed system, it's a one-click operation. If developers can circumvent the App Store, they would have the option to make it a hassle. Maybe you have to call. There's a long hold. The person on the other line is hard to understand and tries to haggle with you not to cancel. All of the deceptive and dishonest elements of commercial behavior we've seen on the web would make their way to the iPhone.

Increased consumer hassle and skepticism would have a direct effect on on-device commerce. When consumers trust the platform, they are more likely to make small purchases on a whim. This fact has led to a booming marketplace for in-app transactions, a real bright spot in the digital economy. Weakening the platform's ability to enforce pro-consumer rules would reduce trust and decrease digital commerce.

If this were not bad enough, phone prices would probably go up. Digital platforms rely on their marketplaces for revenue. Whether it's Apple or Xbox, the revenue from software purchases allows the company to offer their devices at a lower price than it otherwise would. In a world where Apple can no longer receive App Store revenue, upfront iPhone prices would have to go up, making everyone worse off.

State legislatures are not the right venue to hash out digital platform policy. Because of the interconnected nature of digital

By **ELI DOURADO**

Tribune News Service



Eli Dourado is a senior research fellow at the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University.

commerce, if passed, the law would likely be struck down by federal courts as unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause. State legislatures should be careful. Policymakers are acting without understanding the consequences of their proposed solutions, which makes for bad law.

The end result of the policy would be more consumer hassle and identity theft, a reduction in on-phone commerce as consumers grow reluctant to participate, and higher device prices. It would be one thing if legislators ruined smartphones only for residents of their own states. But like the GDPR, these bills would, in practice, have global reach. The whole world would suffer a deterioration in their phone experience and have Rhode Island, North Carolina or Florida to blame.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

‘A pond infested with politicos fighting for every inch of real estate’

To Rep. Leila Staffler, chairman, Committee on Education, House of Representatives: I feel obligated to share with you my personal views of the Attorney General's contradicting opinions cited in OAG NMTI 2020-253 and OAG NMTI 2020-654. I do so as the effects have taken its toll on some very upstanding employees calling for my plea to various policymakers for swift action in this matter.

Two days ago, I called one of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute's displaced staff to ask something unrelated to NMTI. I greeted him with: "How are you?" The individual responded, "I am so destitute, I don't even have any more money to buy my food." His statement was so severe it forced me to once again explore with you, as the House chairman on Education, how your committee could assist affected NMTI staff, instructors, and students as the situation has dragged on for far too long.

It is becoming rather apparent that there are opposing interpretations being made within the AG's Office requiring the Legislature to seek the intervention of the Judiciary. In the story where Manibusan says the House tie-breaking rule "contravenes" the Constitution, you will notice that Manibusan exposes the office's limited functions to resolve legal disputes, hinting toward resolving such disputes via the Judiciary. In the article, he said that due to the importance of resolving the issue, a certified question petition to the local Supreme Court "is recourse that may be explored."

Wholeheartedly agreeing with AG Manibusan on such legally unresolved disputes of importance, it is the duty of the Legislature to use the same recourse in regards to NMTI's employment situation. I suggest a certified question petition be made to the local Supreme Court as the multiple public hearings with the NMTI board of trustees have not advanced the process of reinstating NMTI's deserving employees. The matter being contested is whether "trades" employees are considered assets and, if so, are they to be transferred in accordance with Public Law 20-92 as titled in Section 3 (e) Transfer of Property, Personnel and Funds to NMTI?

After extensive review of OAG NMTI 2020-253 and OAG NMTI 2020-654 in relation to what is being cited verbally by the NMTI board leadership is not within the margins of the AG opinions provided in my view. While trustee members continue to cite procedures from the Office of Personnel Management, there isn't any specific instructions calling for it in the AG opinions. Citing paragraph 3 of OAG NMTI 2020-654, it says, "The NMTI board of trustees' action and approval is required before they [trades personnel] become employees of NMTI."

This passage you will note is consistent with Northern Marianas College v. Civil Service Commission, 2007 MP 8 and further upheld in the Supreme Court (CV-06-0021-GA): Appellee Jack Angello was a Northern Marianas College employee until NMC terminated his employment under the "without cause" provision of his employment contract. He appealed his termination to the NMC Employee Appeals Committee, which upheld NMC's decision. The employee then appealed the ruling to the Civil Service Commission. NMC argued that the CSC lacked jurisdiction over NMC's employment decisions. The CSC found that it had -59- jurisdiction over NMC's employment decisions, basing its decision on the Article 20, Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution, which states that "the [CSC] shall be the sole authority authorized by law to exempt positions from civil service classifications." After multiple hearings and procedural battles

in the Superior Court, the Supreme Court ultimately held that NMC is a fully autonomous agency under the CNMI Constitution, and is thus exempted from the civil service system. The high court reasoned that the CNMI Constitution granted NMC the power to fully control the administration of its affairs, and that NMC was empowered to make its own employee termination decisions without the CSC's review. Thus, the high court held that NMC's decisions are not appealable to the CSC.

In my review of the case being presented, NMTI like NMC by means of P.L. 20-92 is a fully autonomous agency, and is thus exempted from the civil service system. Maintaining such assertions, I feel what is required by NMTI's board of trustees is to officially approve the transfer of the affected employees by means of official board action via regular or special board meeting, so that we can immediately begin providing services to constituents to fully comply with P.L. 20-92, Art. IV, § 12144, Sec. 3 (e) (2).

My strong belief has always been that P.L. 20-92 never intended to create confusion and hardships with students, instructors, and staff of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute transitioning "from that of a private non-profit school to that of a public career and career technical training institution to better serve the Commonwealth..." (P.L. 20-92, Sec. 1.). On the contrary, it was supposed to be a very smooth transition. The intent of the Act is that NMTI shall prepare itself to "obtain national industry credentials and certifications for its career, technical and trades training curriculum and program by the end of the fifth year after its transition into a public NMTI," through this chaos is now further away from such a realization as it has become a pond infested with politicos fighting for every inch of real estate. I hope one day we can look back at how history continues to show how greed and personal ambition has slowed progress and say, "We did everything we could to minimize the damage."

Agnes M. McPhetres

via email

COVID-19

From Page 8

and Moderna to inoculate all adults in the U.S. who want to be vaccinated by the end of May. But every day for the last week, there were more than 70,000 new COVID-19 cases documented in the U.S., and about 5,000 additional deaths from the disease.

Committee member Dr. Camille Kotton, an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, put the pause in human costs: "We were going to use this vaccine for homebound, high-risk, underserved populations, hard-to-reach [people]. We need to be cautious and careful, but losing this one-and-done vaccine that didn't require cold [storage] is a significant loss." Unlike the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the Moderna and Pfizer offerings require two injections to achieve maximum protection.

A prolonged pause may also exacerbate vaccine hesitancy. While federal health officials say that their fast action on this vaccine should instill confidence in the public that regulators are closely monitoring the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines (and they are), we worry about the people who don't read past the scary headlines.

Indeed, it seems that the rare blood clotting disorder is taking a toll on immunization efforts in Europe by lowering confidence even as infections there are climbing. And on Wednesday, Denmark announced it was dumping the AstraZeneca vaccine. That seems like an extreme overreaction. It's important that authorities carefully weigh the risks for any medication against the benefits, but no matter how you look at the data, the bad outcomes for Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca are few and far between.

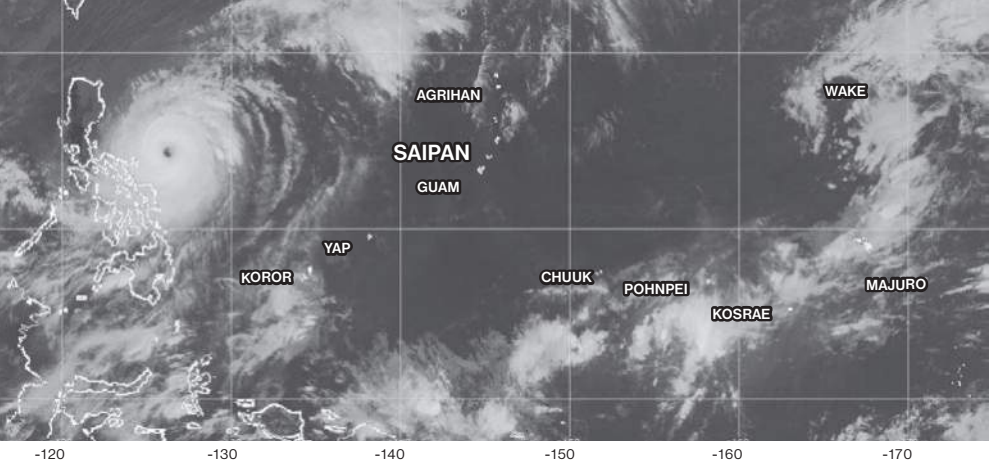
We need more data to lower the risk even more, but ultimately,

we may have to accept that there is a serious, if rare, side effect with some vaccines, then do what we can to limit their use to people at lower risk for clots but higher risk of COVID-19 infections. At the moment, that appears to be people over age 50 and adult men of all ages.

Speaking of pauses, let's do that here for a moment to put this particular debate in the larger context: As of Wednesday, more than 76 million people in the U.S. have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with virtually no major adverse effects. That's a success by any measure. Regardless of the questions about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the public should feel supremely confident that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Isolated showers in the morning, becoming scattered showers in the afternoon along west coasts. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Isolated showers in the morning becoming scattered in the afternoon along west coasts. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy in the morning, becoming partly sunny in the afternoon. Isolated showers in the morning, becoming scattered in the afternoon along west coasts.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:24 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers. Similar conditions are seen eastward all the way to 160E. Far to the west, Typhoon Surigae is generating prodigious amounts of west swell. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 10 feet, composed of a northeast trade-wind swell and a west-southwest typhoon swell from Surigae.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89 79 °F	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85 72 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:30 AM	11:58 AM
Wednesday	-	1:20 AM	12:54 PM
Thursday	-	2:08 AM	1:50 PM
Friday	-	2:53 AM	2:47 PM
Saturday	-	3:38 AM	3:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	68 55 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	74 50 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85 75 °F	
Honolulu	Cloudy	80 70 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	56 35 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74 59 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	71 49 °F	
Miami	Cloudy	83 71 °F	
New York	Sunny	61 44 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	68 59 °F	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	56 34 °F	
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	71 49 °F	
Rome	Rain	66 45 °F	
Salem	Light Rain	62 42 °F	
San Francisco	Cloudy	64 51 °F	
Seoul	Light Rain	65 45 °F	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	75 57 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	72 49 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:49 AM	High Tide	1.68	
8:09 AM	Low Tide	1.34	
12:00 PM	High Tide	1.52	
7:53 PM	Low Tide	0.14	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
				1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
				1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
				1205 11:00 11:15 Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
				1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
				1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
				1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
				1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	
ROTA TO GUAM				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	

Business

Kensington's Meisho Restaurant reopens on Saturday

By BEA CABRERA

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CORRESPONDENT

Fourmands of Saipan, rejoice! Kensington Hotel Saipan's Meisho Restaurant is reopening on Saturday, April 24, featuring many of the regional and traditional dishes of Japan.

The restaurant, which has a reputation of prestige with its fine décor and authentic Japanese food and taste, has lined up a new menu to welcome guest.

"We are giving guests a true 'all-you-can-eat' experience first by having eight buffet stations, the closest to pre-pandemic buffet setting," said Sales & Marketing Manager Katy Hung. These stations will serve seafood, sashimi, sushi and rolls, tempura, dessert, and more.

There will also be everyone's favorite—an Ala Minute Buffet with five options to choose from: Teriyaki

**For more information
or reservation, call
(670) 322-3311**



Chicken, Yakidori, Gyu-Katsu, Roasted Pork, and Mayo Prawn and one choice for main dish: either an Angus Beef Sirloin Yakimono or Misoyaki Roaster Halibut.

As an added come-on for guests, Meisho Restaurant is offering a reopening promo—a 10% discount on the restaurant's regular price. Having a

large group will also be great for guests. "Bring your family and friends because we have a 4 + 1 promotion, which means

for a party of 4, you get to bring a fifth person for free."

On April 23, Friday, Meisho Restaurant is having a spe-

Meisho Restaurant offers not only great Japanese food but exclusive fine dining that will make every guest feel special.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

cial "Summer Bash" where guests can enjoy swimming or hanging out in the pool while ordering delicious food and drinks at the restaurant from 6pm to 9pm.

Other Kensington Hotel Saipan outlets such as OHAS Bakery and Loria Restaurant reopened last year, offering more good food choices to the

community. OHAS caters to people who crave fresh bread and premium cakes while Loria Restaurant brought back the buffet style of dining and was the first to introduce to the island the Ala Minute buffet concept, which means food is prepared and served to you at your table when you order it.

Meisho Restaurant has limited seats and encourages early booking. For more information or reservation, call (670) 322-3311 go to their website: kensingtonsaipan.com.



From the finest ingredients down to every plate served, expect authentic Japanese food and taste.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American, 2 Russians return to Earth from space station



AP

Expedition 64 NASA astronaut Kate Rubins is helped out of the Soyuz MS-17 spacecraft just minutes after she, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Sergey Kud-Sverchkov and Sergey Ryzhikov landed in a remote area near the town of Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

MOSCOW (AP)—An American astronaut and two Russians have returned to Earth after six months aboard the International Space Station.

A Soyuz space capsule carrying NASA's Kate Rubins and Russians Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov landed at 0455 GMT (12:55 a.m. EDT) Saturday in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Dmitry Rogozin, head of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, said all three were feeling well after they were extracted from the capsule and began reacclimating to the

pull of gravity.

The three had arrived at the orbiting laboratory complex on Oct. 14.

There now are seven people aboard the ISS: NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei and Russians Oleg Novitskiy and Pyotr Dubrov arrived on April 9; Americans Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan's Soichi Noguchi, came aboard in November on the SpaceX Crew Dragon Resilience, the first ISS docking under NASA's Commercial Crew Program.

Three telcos team up to inform customers of new 10-digit dialing procedure in Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—The three Guam carriers—IT&E, Docomo Pacific, and GTE—have teamed up to inform customers of a new 10-digit dialing procedure.

The Federal Communications Commission has designated 988 as the service number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline effective July 16, 2022. As a result, starting Oct. 24, 2021, all local phone calls in Guam must include the 671 area code.

When it comes to suicide prevention and mental health aid, every second matters. Right now, if a loved one wanted to take the courageous step to ask for help, they would have to dial 1-800-273-8255 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline—a number too long to remember in times of crisis. Beginning July of next year, when you have an urgent mental health need, you will call just 3 digits—"988"; similar to "911" for police, fire, or rescue emergencies.

To make this possible, all area codes within the United

States that have phone numbers beginning with "988" will now require the area code be dialed first, followed by the local telephone number (for example: 671-988-XXXX). This prevents calls to the National Suicide Lifeline from being automatically triggered and placed. Guam is amongst 82 area codes that need to make this local call transition. By Oct. 24, 2021, all phone numbers will remain the same, but "671" will need to be entered in the beginning.

In a joint effort, all Guam's service providers will supply constant reminders through in-store flyers, social media content, and notices on subscribers' upcoming billing statements.

Some helpful tips to navigate through this change:

- Go through your contact list and add "671" in the beginning of all local phone numbers.

- Reprogram all numbers on life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines, internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarms and security systems or gates.

■ For business customers: Be sure to check websites, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks for contact information and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

"Mental health is a big issue that affects our island. We know there will be some initial frustration with the 10-digit dialing at first, but the benefits of a short code '988' in times of crisis will outweigh that on many levels. Your island carriers will be combining our resources and working together to make the transition seamless," said Roderick Boss, chief executive officer of Docomo Pacific.

"Uniting with our local telecom providers to educate our island about mandatory 10-digit dialing is critical. It gives customers adequate time to check and reprogram electronics and other equipment to incorporate 10-digit phone numbers. The permissive dialing period given by all local telecom companies here [in] Guam also allows

customers to become acclimated to dialing 10-digits instead of seven and ensures that our community is fully prepared for the significant change this year," said Andrew Gayle, chief operating officer of GTA. "The implementation of '988' as the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline is a positive step for our community and further connects them to life-saving resources."

"Our partnership with Docomo and GTA is instrumental for helping all our subscribers adjust to the new dialing procedure, as well as for educating the community about the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline that will be operational next year," said Jim Oehlerking, chief executive officer of IT&E. "It's a testament to the strength of our community that we can unite to help our island thrive. We stand hand in hand to elevate awareness of the resources available for mental health."

For more information on the 988 project at Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, you can contact project director Joleen Respicio at 671-482-7679. (PR)

Pandemic good Samaritan faces hefty tax bill for his efforts

MANSFIELD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut middle school teacher who raised \$41,000 to help hundreds of his struggling neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic got an unwelcome surprise for his charitable efforts: a form stating he could owe \$16,031 in income taxes.

Louis Goffinet, 27, of Mansfield, began picking up groceries for elderly neigh-

bors afraid to go to the store during the early days of the pandemic, often spending his own money. Given the great need, he later organized two fundraisers on Facebook over a year and helped hundreds of families with groceries, rent money and holiday gifts, the Hartford Courant reported, setting a \$200 limit.

Goffinet said both finan-

cial support for his efforts and demand for assistance ended up becoming higher than he first expected. He tracked 140 grocery trips on a spreadsheet, noting he also provided Friday night dinners to 125 families, holiday gift cards for 20 families so they could buy gifts for their children, 31 Thanksgiving dinners and rental assistance

to five families. Some local businesses donated food.

"It became dramatically bigger than I thought," he said. "My original goal was to raise \$200 to help one family with groceries. I was already doubting myself when I set that up, that people in town are not going to want to pay for someone else's groceries."

Nation

Half of US adults have received at least one COVID-19 shot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Half of all adults in the U.S. have received at least one COVID-19 shot, the government announced Sunday, marking another milestone in the nation's largest-ever vaccination campaign but leaving more work to do to convince skeptical Americans to roll up their sleeves.

Almost 130 million people 18 or older have received at least one dose of a vaccine, or 50.4% of the total adult population, the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention reported. Almost 84 million adults, or about 32.5% of the population, have been fully vaccinated.

The U.S. cleared the 50% mark just a day after the reported global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million, according to totals compiled by Johns Hopkins University, though the actual number is believed to be significantly higher.

The country's vaccination rate, at 61.6 doses adminis-

tered per 100 people, currently falls behind Israel, which leads among countries with at least 5 million people with a rate of 119.2. The U.S. also trails the United Arab Emirates, Chile and the United Kingdom, which is vaccinating at a rate of 62 doses per 100 people, according to Our World in Data, an online research site.

The vaccine campaign offered hope in places like Nashville, Tennessee, where the Music City Center bustled

Sunday with vaccine seekers. High demand for appointment-only shots at the convention center has leveled off enough that walk-ins will be welcome starting this week.

Amanda Grimsley, who received her second shot, said she's ready to see her 96-year-old grandmother, who lives in Alabama and has been nervous about getting the vaccine after having a bad reaction to a flu shot.

"It's a little emotional. I

haven't been able to see my grandmother in a year and a half almost," said Grimsley, 35. "And that's the longest my entire family has ever gone without seeing her. And we'll be seeing her in mid-May now."

The states with the highest vaccination rates have a history of voting Democratic and supporting President Joe Biden in the 2020 election: New Hampshire at the top, with 71.1%, followed by New Mexico, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine, CDC data show.

The demand has not been the same in many areas of Tennessee—particularly, rural ones.

Tennessee sits in the bottom four states for rates of adults getting at least one shot, at 40.8%. It's trailed only by Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi—three other Southern

states that lean Republican and voted for Donald Trump last fall.

Vaccination rates do not always align with how states vote. But polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research has shown trends that link political leanings and attitudes about the vaccines and other issues related to the pandemic, which has killed more than 566,000 people in the U.S.

A poll conducted in late March found that 36% of Republicans said they will probably or definitely not get vaccinated, compared with 12% of Democrats. Similarly, a third of rural Americans said they were leaning against getting shots, while fewer than a fourth of people living in cities and suburbs shared that hesitancy.

Search for 9 missing from capsized boat in Gulf on 6th day

PORT FOURCHON, La. (AP)—For a sixth day, rescue crews returned Sunday to a capsized lift boat in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana, looking for nine crew members who have not been found, the Coast Guard said.

Officials have released little information about their continuous search in the murky seas surrounding the capsized Seacor Power lift boat some 8 miles (13 kilometers) off the coast since announcing divers found two bodies inside the ship Friday night.

Six people were rescued alive after the boat capsized Tuesday in a storm. Four bodies have been found—one Wednesday, one Thursday and two on Friday.

Families of the missing crew members haven't given up that maybe they found an air pocket or are still alive.

"We have hope," Marion Cuyler wrote in a text to a reporter.

Cuyler texted her fiancée, crane operator Chaz Morales, that the weather appeared too bad to head out Tuesday. She said Morales texted her back that he wished he could stay ashore.

"We aren't defeated. We will keep fighting," Cuyler texted a reporter late Saturday.

Calm seas met rescuers for the first time since the bulky



The capsized lift boat Seacor Power is seen seven miles off the coast of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico Sunday, April 18, 2021. The vessel capsized during a storm on Tuesday.

vessel flipped over Tuesday afternoon south of Port Fourchon, a major base for the U.S. oil and gas industry. It has three legs it can lower to the sea floor to lift it out of the water as a temporary platform.

Part of one of those legs poked out of the water Sunday. A corner of the boat's platform was above the surface with the orange-painted safety railing pointing back at the sea. Two boats were nearby, a large

platform boat with equipment and a smaller boat tethered to the stricken vessel.

Divers are trying to get inside the boat, capsized where the sea is 50 to 55 feet (15 to 17 meters) deep. Rescuers in the air and the water have been searching an area the size of Rhode Island for the remaining nine missing crew members.

"We are continuing to search," Coast Guard Petty Officer John Michelli said Sun-

day morning. "We've basically been 24-7 since the beginning."

Michelli referred questions about the diving operation to New Jersey-based Donjon Marine Co., which was contracted by boat-owner Seacor Power to lead the underwater search. A spokesperson for the company referred questions back to Houston-based Seacor on Sunday morning, and a spokesperson said Seacor didn't have a comment Sunday.

Attorneys at Chauvin trial in Floyd death make final pitch

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Attorneys in the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged with killing George Floyd are set to make their closing arguments Monday, each side seeking to distill three weeks of testimony to persuade jurors to deliver their view of the right verdict.

For prosecutors, Derek Chauvin recklessly squeezed the life from Floyd as he and two other officers pinned him to the street for 9 minutes, 29 seconds outside a corner market, despite Floyd's repeated cries that he couldn't breathe—actions they say warrant conviction not just for manslaughter but also on two

murder counts.

For the defense, Floyd, who was Black, put himself at risk by swallowing fentanyl and methamphetamine, then resisted officers trying to arrest him—factors that compounded his vulnerability to a diseased heart and raise sufficient doubt that Chauvin, who is white, should be acquitted.

Each side will pull key testimony to support their narrative for what killed Floyd in a case that roiled America 11 months ago and continues to resonate. The anonymous jury will later deliver verdicts in a courthouse surrounded by concrete barriers and razor wire, in an anxious city heav-

ily fortified by National Guard members and just days after fresh outrage erupted over the police killing of a 20-year-old Black man in a nearby suburb.

The attorneys aren't limited by time, though legal experts say overlong arguments risk losing jurors' attention and may be less effective. Prosecutors Steve Schleicher and Jerry Blackwell will share the closing, with Schleicher leading off and Blackwell coming on for the last-word rebuttal of defense attorney Eric Nelson's closing.

Chauvin, 45, is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Experts expect Schleicher to

walk jurors through the elements of the charges. All three require the jury to conclude that Chauvin's actions were a "substantial causal factor" in Floyd's death—and that his use of force was unreasonable.

Schleicher can remind jurors of key testimony from a myriad prosecution medical experts who testified that Floyd died of asphyxiation caused by being pinned to the pavement. He and Blackwell can point to plentiful testimony from use-of-force experts who said Chauvin's actions were clearly improper, as well as Minneapolis Police Department officials saying they were outside his training.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: FedEx shooter legally bought guns used in shooting

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The former employee who shot and killed eight people at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis legally bought the two rifles used in the attack despite red flag laws designed to prevent such purchases, police said. A trace of the two guns found by investigators at the scene revealed that suspect Brandon Scott Hole, 19, of Indianapolis, legally bought the rifles last July and September, officials with the Indianapolis police said Saturday. The police did not say where Hole bought what they described as "assault rifles," citing the ongoing investigation, but said he was seen using both rifles during the shooting. Details about the weapons' make, model and caliber won't be released until the investigation is complete, said Genae Cook, a spokesperson for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. Authorities said Hole shot and killed eight people, four of them from the city's Sikh community, at the FedEx facility late Thursday before killing himself.

Police: Suspect on the run in fatal shooting of 3 in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A manhunt was underway Sunday for a former sheriff's deputy wanted in the fatal shooting of three people in Austin, Texas, as an official said it wasn't known if the suspect was still in the city. Interim Austin Police

Chief Joseph Chacon said those who live near where the shooting happened late Sunday morning no longer had to shelter in place, but he said they should "remain vigilant." He said officials were transitioning the search for Stephen Broderick, 41, from that area to a "fugitive search." "The victims were all known to this suspect," Chacon said. "At this point, we do not think this individual is out there targeting random people to shoot. That does not mean he is not dangerous."

Vigil, 'peace walk' in Chicago after police shooting of boy

CHICAGO (AP)—People gathered around Chicago on Sunday to remember a 13-year-old boy fatally shot by a police officer and to call for changes in policing and an end to gun violence. Sunday's events followed the release of body-camera footage showing Chicago police Officer Eric Stillman shoot Adam Toledo less than a second after the boy dropped a gun, turned toward the officer and began raising his hands. Stillman chased the boy down a dark alley on March 29 after responding to a call of gunshots. A "peace walk" was held Sunday in Little Village, the predominantly Latino southwest Chicago neighborhood where Adam lived and was killed. A gathering on the city's north side addressed racism, and other vigils were held around the city to remember Adam and others killed by police.

Asia

Beijing warns USA, Japan against collusion vs China

BEIJING (AP)—China said Friday it has expressed “serious concerns” to the United States and Japan over what it calls negative moves and collusion between the two countries against China.

The statement from Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian came just before President Joe Biden welcomes Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to the White House on Friday in his first face-to-face meeting with a foreign leader.

That meeting is seen as reflecting Biden’s emphasis on strengthening alliances to deal with a more assertive China and other global challenges.

Zhao told reporters at a

daily briefing that Japan and the United States should “take China’s concerns and demands seriously, avoid words and actions that interfere in China’s internal affairs and harm China’s interests.”

“China has no objection to the development of normal bilateral relations between Japan and the United States, but such relations should help enhance mutual understanding and trust among regional countries and contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and should not target or harm the interests of third parties,” Zhao said.

China would “make necessary responses as appropriate,” he said.

Biden and Suga see their meeting as a chance to counter messaging from Chinese President Xi Jinping that America and democracies in general are on the decline, after the political turmoil and backing away from global leadership that marked Donald Trump’s presidency.

Japan remains China’s traditional rival dating from Tokyo’s brutal WWII occupation of much of the country. Relations between Washington and Beijing are tenser than ever over trade, technology, Hong Kong, Taiwan and human rights, particularly China’s policies toward Turkic Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Japanese leader asks Pfizer for additional vaccine supply

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga asked the U.S. drug maker Pfizer Inc. for additional supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine to speed up his country’s inoculation drive, which lags behind many other nations.

Suga, after holding talks with President Joe Biden at the White House, wrapped up his Washington visit on Saturday with a phone call to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla.

Taro Kono, a Cabinet minister tasked with vaccinations, told a Japanese television talk show Sunday that the two sides have “practically reached an agreement” over the vaccines.

Suga requested Bourla provide additional supplies that would cover all eligible re-

cipients by September, as well as to ensure the stable and prompt delivery of the ongoing vaccine shipments, Japanese officials said Sunday. No details were released.

According to the officials, Bourla told Suga that Pfizer planned to closely coordinate with the Japanese government to discuss the requests.

Japan, with its domestic vaccine development still in the early stages, has to rely on imports and has signed agreements with Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna. The Pfizer vaccine is the only one Japan has approved so far.

Japan’s government says it has secured 314 million doses, enough to cover its entire population by the end of this year. That includes 144 million doses from Pfizer.

Inoculations started in mid-February and have covered less than 1% of the population. The slow process is hampered by the shortage of vaccines amid export controls by the European Union.

Kono has said the pace of the vaccine shipments is expected to pick up beginning in May. Addressing concerns about the shortage of medical workers administering the jabs, the government recently revised a law to recruit nurses who have retired or are on leave to temporarily help with the vaccinations.

The rise in cases led the government to issue an alert status for Tokyo and nine other urban prefectures. It has also fueled doubts about whether or how the July 23-Aug. 8 Tokyo Olympics can go ahead.

plummeted into the canal. Villagers and police brought the victims, mostly relatives, to two Kalinga hospitals. Many regions of the country’s mountainous north are notorious for deadly road accidents due to dilapidated vehicles, lack of railings and road safety signages and poor enforcement of transport regulations.

Bangladesh police kill 5 workers amid protests over back pay

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in southeastern Bangladesh on Saturday killed at least five people at an under-construction power plant amid clashes with thousands of workers protesting over unpaid wages and other demands, officials said. At least

15 workers and several policemen were injured, said Azizul Islam, a local police official in the Banshkhal sub-district of Chattogram district, where the plant is being built. Police said around 5,000 workers are working at the construction site, although it was not immediately clear how many of them took part in the protests. Police opened fire after being attacked by some of the demonstrating workers, said Anwar Hossain, a senior police official in the district. He said four bodies were taken to a local hospital while another man succumbed to his injuries separately. Hossain said the construction workers are demanding back pay, a salary increase and a half day of work on Fridays.

World

11 killed in Egypt train crash



People gather at the site where a passenger train derailed injuring at least 100 people, near Banha, Qalyubia province, Egypt, Sunday, April 18, 2021. **AP**

CAIRO (AP)—A passenger train derailed Sunday north of Cairo, killing at least 11 people, Egyptian authorities said. It was the latest of several rail accidents to hit the country in recent years.

Four train wagons ran off the railway at the city of Banha in Qalyubia province, just outside Cairo, the railway authority said in a statement. Videos on social media showed wagons overturned and passengers escaping to safety along the railway.

The train was travelling to the Nile Delta city of Mansoura from the Egyptian capital, the statement said.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that besides the dead, at least 98 people were injured, with most of them suffering from broken bones, cuts and bruises.

At least 60 ambulances were sent to the scene and the injured were taken to nearby hospitals, the ministry added.

Salvage teams could be seen searching for survivors

and removing the derailed wagons. It was not immediately clear what caused the train to derail. Prosecutors said they were investigating the causes of the crash.

The state-run Ahram daily reported that authorities have detained at least 10 railway officials, including the train driver and his assistant, pending an investigation into the crash.

At Banha University hospital, people lined up to donate blood for the crash victims. Families were also present looking for loved ones who had been travelling on the train.

“We were surprised by the strain speeding up,” said Tarek Gomaa, one of the injured. “We found ourselves on top of each other.”

Sunday’s train accident came three weeks after two passenger trains collided in the province of Sohag, killing at least 18 people and injuring 200 others, including children.

Prosecutors said they found that gross negligence by railway employees was behind the deadly March 25 crash, which caused public outcry across the country.

Train wrecks and mishaps are common in Egypt, where the railway system has a history of badly maintained equipment and mismanagement. The government says it has launched a broad renovation and modernization initiative. President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said in March 2018 that the government needs about 250 billion Egyptian pounds, or \$14.1 billion, to overhaul the run-down rail system.

Hundreds of train accidents are reported every year. In February 2019 an unmanned locomotive slammed into a barrier inside Cairo’s main Ramses railway station, causing a huge explosion and a fire that killed at least 25 people. That crash prompted the then-transportation minister to resign.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cape Town fire burns university library, students evacuated

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A wildfire raging on the slopes of Cape Town’s Table Mountain spread to the University of Cape Town, burning the historic campus library and forcing the evacuation of students Sunday. Orange flames lit up the windows of the library that houses considerable archives and book collections while firefighters sprayed jets of water to douse the blaze. At least two floors of Jagger Library burned, according to local news reports. Other campus buildings also caught fire, and a historic windmill nearby burned. Just off-campus on the slopes of Table Mountain, wind spread the flames across

dry brush, and part of the Rhodes Memorial Restaurant caught fire, Cape Town media reported. More than 100 firefighters and emergency personnel were deployed to the university campus and to Table Mountain National Park. Four helicopters were being used to drop water on threatened areas, officials said.

Turkey reports record daily number of COVID-19 deaths

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)—Turkey on Sunday reported its highest daily number of COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic, according to Health Ministry data. The 318 deaths confirmed in 24 hours took the country’s total pandemic death toll to 35,926. The

Health Ministry also reported 55,802 new confirmed cases, pushing Turkey’s total closer to 4.3 million. Weekly data also released Sunday showed the northwest province of Canakkale with Turkey’s highest infection rate at 962.98 cases per 100,000 people. Turkey has seen rising numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths since the government eased virus-control restrictions at the beginning start of March, when daily confirmed cases averaged below 10,000. The government has blamed the rising numbers on coronavirus variants. A partial closure was re-introduced on April 13, including an extended evening curfew on weekdays, a return to online education and a ban on unnecessary intercity travel.

ASIAN BRIEFS

13 people dead as SUV falls into Philippine irrigation canal

BAGUIO, Philippines (AP)—Thirteen people, many of them children, drowned when their SUV plunged into an irrigation canal in a northern Philippine mountain city, police said Monday. Police said 2 of the 15 occupants of the crowded SUV survived the accident with injuries. The driver was among the dead, who included seven children, officials said. The victims were on their way to a locally popular lake when the accident occurred in Tabuk city in Kalinga province Sunday afternoon. Police were investigating the cause but initial reports indicate the driver, Soy Lope Agtula, suddenly lost control and the SUV skidded off the road and

Overdrive

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

Performance brand Mazda wants to put its own unique stamp on the electric vehicle market.

The zippy automaker introduced the 2022 MX-30 SUV Wednesday, its first battery-powered offering. Following other Asian automakers' electrification strategies, the ute is part of a portfolio of electrified vehicles that will include a hybrid and plug-in hybrid. But Mazda plans to bring signature attributes to the MX-30 with taut handling and a gas-powered rotary engine in the plug-in model.

The MX-30 will arrive with Mazda's sleek but conventional styling, eschewing more radical, grille-less front ends seen on EVs like the Chevy Bolt EUV or Hyundai Kona EV.

By all outward appearances, MX-30 looks like a gas-powered Mazda. Built on the same platform as the gas-powered CX-30, the MX-30 has an air of familiarity. Though electric engines don't need big grilles to feed air to engine combustion chambers, the car retains a grille design between the headlights—though it's smaller than the brand's traditional, full-fascia opening.

Body lines are coupe-like, and the wheel wells are more squared-off than the hoop-style design of cousin CX-30.

The MX-30 will go head-to-head against other subcompact EVs like the Kona and Nissan Leaf. Unlike these brands, however, Mazda will only offer a short-range, 35.5 kWh lithium ion battery. Mazda will announce range closer to the vehicle's California



boasts full-EV and Wankel plug-in models

The Mazda MX-30 is the brand's first EV.
MAZDA

launch this fall (other markets to follow), but expect 150-180 miles like its peers.

Unlike the Leaf and Kona, the MX-30 will not feature a larger, 220-mile-plus range battery. Instead, it will come equipped with a rotary-power plug-in unique to Mazda. Mazda and rotary have been synonymous for decades, with rotary-powered (so-called Wankel engine) race cars achieving international glory from France's Le Mans track to the high bankings of the Daytona 24 Hour.

The RX-8 sports car was the last Mazda to carry a Wankel engine in its belly, in 2012. The lightweight engine is being resurrected in the plug-in model—due as a 2023 model—as Mazda uses electrification to bolster the brand's performance tech. With it notoriously smooth operation, the Wankel engine will complement the MX-30's low-place batteries to lower

the SUV's center of gravity for better cornering.

"Mazda is preparing for the fast-changing US market demands by taking a multi-solution approach to electrification," said Jeff Guyton, president of Mazda North America. "The battery-powered MX-30 will begin the introduction of

additional electrified models, including a series plug-in hybrid with a rotary generator for MX-30, a plug-in hybrid for our new large platform, and a traditional hybrid for our new American-made crossover. Mazda fans can expect great driving dynamics and beautiful design across all models."

First to arrive is the battery-only MX-30 that will send 144 horsepower and 200 pound-feet of torque to the front wheels. Mazda claims the 35.5 kWh battery can be charged to 80% in 36 minutes using DC fast-charging stations like those operated by Electrify America.

Authorities say no one was driving Tesla before deadly crash

HOUSTON (AP)—Two people were killed in Texas in the fiery crash of a Tesla and authorities say there was no one in the driver's seat at the time of the crash, although it's not clear whether the car's driver-assist system was being used.

A Harris County constable told television stations in Houston that there was a person in the front passenger seat and another in a rear passenger seat after the wreck Saturday night in the Houston suburb of Spring.

Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Mark Herman said

authorities are certain that no one was driving the car at the time of the crash.

"They feel very confident just with the positioning of the bodies after the impact that there was no one driving that vehicle," Herman told KHOU-TV.

Deputies said the car was traveling fast and failed to navigate a turn before running off the road, hitting a tree, and bursting into flames. The identity of the victims had not been released by Sunday afternoon. KHOU reported that one was 69 and the other was 59.

Tesla did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Federal traffic-safety officials are investigating several Tesla crashes in which the vehicle's Autopilot function may have been used, including crashes in which cars drove under tractor-trailers.

The company warns customers that its driver-assist system, called Autopilot, is not an autonomous-driving program, and that they must pay attention and be ready to take control of the vehicle. However, the National Trans-

Besides sharing a platform with the gas-powered CX-30, the EV shares its elegant design. A floating console offers a new shifter for the electric drivetrain and a familiar rotary dial controlling the infotainment screen high on the dash.

For the first time, Mazda adds a second, lower, seven-inch touchscreen (think the interior of an Audi) that will display climate controls. Following other EVs, the MX-30 can be accessed remotely via a smartphone app to monitor interior temperature and charging. The SUV will also sport trendy green details like eco-friendly cork door grips. Cork pays homage to Mazda's origin more than a century ago as a cork maker.

Safety and electronic details will be disclosed closer to launch, as will information about the highly anticipated rotary engine.

"The rotary generator will mark the return of our unique rotary powertrain," said Guyton. "This technology is being engineered for nearly silent operation and will replenish the battery rather than drive the wheels."

portation Safety Board said last year that the design of the system allows drivers to avoid paying attention and fails to limit where Autopilot can be used.

KPRC-TV reported that a brother-in-law of one of the victims said it took four hours to extinguish the blaze. Authorities said the vehicle's batteries repeatedly reignited, and Herman said that deputies called Tesla to ask how to put out the fire. Tesla publishes information for first responders, including the location of high-voltage lines.

How will we charge all those electric cars?

Q: With all the manufacturers talking about going to electric vehicles, I wonder how my neighbors who have four SUVs in their driveway and garage full of stuff and the people in the city who park on the street nightly will charge their vehicles?

A: Charging in one's driveway should not be a problem if the cable is long enough. Otherwise, the best option may be a public charging station. More businesses and shopping venues are installing them. Some apartment buildings and condos have chargers. Eventually charging stations will become more ubiquitous. London, for example, has lamppost stations.

Q: I've been told that in order to make even a small percentage of vehicles battery powered, you need rare earth elements that are in short supply right now and impossible to extract to make this possible. If you can't make the batteries, how can you expect to meet this agenda?

A: Currently, there is no shortage of lithium for batteries, but there is some talk among experts that there may be a shortage around 2025 as carmakers release more electric vehicles. OilPrice.com recently reported that Tesla's Elon Musk "... claims that Nevada alone holds enough lithium to convert the entire U.S. vehicle fleet into electric. Tesla has rights on over

10,000 acres of a lithium clay deposit in Nevada, from which it plans to extract lithium."

Q: My 2013 Nissan Altima SE only blows cold air when the car is moving. When the car is idling at a light or moving at low speeds in traffic, it blows warm air. Several mechanics couldn't find anything wrong, and they tell me it's most likely an electrical issue that could run into thousands of dollars! One mechanic thought it was a fuse and replaced it, but nothing changed. Have you heard of this issue before? Help! Summer is just around the corner here in South Florida!

A: The air conditioning condenser sits in front of the car's radiator to cool the compressed refrigerant gas into a liquid. An electric fan draws in outside air. At highway speeds, the fan is often unnecessary. If the fan does not switch on at low vehicle speed, the A/C performance suffers. It may be a wiring problem, a bad fan or something that controls the fan.

Q: I have a 2004 Toyota Solara Convertible with 103,000 original miles on it. Love this car! Every time I put the top down, I feel like I am on vacation! I have had it well maintained by the Toyota dealership all these years, and they are more than happy to replace things that wear out. Seventeen years in, I plan on keeping this soon-to-be-classic vehicle.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest.

Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



Why do they always demur when I ask about replacing the struts? The ride, after all these Chicago winters that tear up our streets, is not like it was when new. Wouldn't new struts improve the ride?

A: New struts usually make a big difference, not only for the ride but for safer braking. There is nothing unusual about replacing the front struts, but there is for the rear struts. To gain access to the upper strut mounting bolts, the rear seat cushions and several panels must be removed. Yeah, it is a hassle. The extra labor will, of course, cost you extra money. Get a quote before you approve the job.

Life & Style

'Mad Max' prequel shot in Outback to be released in 2023

SYDNEY (AP)—A prequel to the "Mad Max" movie franchise starring Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth will be filmed in Australia, officials said on Monday.

"Furiosa" is slated for release in mid-2023 and is expected to become the biggest film ever made in Australia, New South Wales state Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

Hemsworth said being involved in such a project in his homeland was a dream come true.

"This will be my fourth or fifth film here in Australia," the "Thor" star said in Sydney.

"It really is, out of everything I've done, the biggest pinch-myself moment, because I've grown up watching it and it's so iconic," Hemsworth said.

"It is a huge honor. A lot of pressure, but exciting pressure that is certainly motivating," he added.

Actors and crews will travel to locations across New South Wales, including the mining town of Broken Hill, the surrounds of which have traditionally provided the post-apocalyptic landscapes of the movies.

The latest movie in the franchise, "Mad Max: Fury Road," released in 2015, was

mostly shot in Namibia because unseasonal rain left Outback New South Wales unusually green.

The lead actor in "The Queen's Gambit" miniseries, Taylor-Joy will star in the film as a younger version of Furiosa, who was played by Charlize Theron in the 2015 installment.

Writer and director George Miller, who with Byron Kennedy started the "Mad Max" franchise starring Mel Gibson in 1979, said he was grateful to shoot the film in his home country, thanks to financial support from the state and federal governments.



Hemsworth

"I had friends in England shooting movies that were shut down two or three times," Miller said, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact.

Miller said he was also excited by the role

an Australian film boom was playing in the nation's recovery from the pandemic.

Australia has been dubbed "Aussiewood" in the media because a number of actors have left Los Angeles for the freedoms of Sydney while Australia has been relatively successful in halting community transmission of COVID-19.

Luke Bryan wins top ACM Award, but female acts own the night

NEW YORK (AP)—Carrie Underwood brought the Academy of Country Music Awards to church. Maren Morris won two honors, including song of the year. Miranda Lambert performed three times and held onto her record as the most decorated winner in ACM history. And Mickey Guyton, the first Black woman to host the awards show, gave a powerful, top-notch vocal performance.

Though female country stars didn't compete for the night's top prize — Luke Bryan was named entertainer of the year — they owned Sunday's ACM Awards.

Underwood's performance stood out the most. She was joined by gospel legend CeCe Winans and the dynamic duo blended their voices like angels onstage. Underwood performed songs from her recent gospel hymns album "My Savior," kicking off the set with "Amazing Grace" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Then Winans joined in, matching her strong vocal performance.



Carrie Underwood, left, and CeCe Winans perform at the 56th annual Academy of Country Music Awards on Saturday, April 17, 2021, at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. **AP**

Lambert performed three times, first alongside rock-pop singer Elle King for a fun, energetic performance of their new duet "Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)." Lambert, who founded pet shelter nonprofit MuttNation, also performed alongside album of the

year winner Chris Stapleton for "Maggie's Song," a tribute to Stapleton's dog who died 2019. Her final performance was with Jack Ingram and Jon Randall.

The performances that aired Sunday were pre-taped at various locations in Nashville, Tennessee, including the

Grand Ole Opry House, the Ryman Auditorium and The Bluebird Cafe. Winners, wearing masks, accepted awards in real time in front of small audiences made up of medical and health care workers.

Bryan was set to perform Sunday but backed out of the

show because he recently tested positive for the coronavirus.

"I'm so sorry I could not be there," he said from Los Angeles. "And to all my fans out there and country radio, we miss touring. We've missed being on the road with everybody that makes me an entertainer. My bus drivers, my band, my crew, what a challenging year. But to all the fans and everybody we'll be back out on the road doing what we love."

Morris spoke about the taxing year without live music when she won female artist of the year.

"Really just happy to be in a category with women that were not able to tour this year, but brought so much heat to the game to country music this year. You've inspired me so much to no end, and even in a year where no one's gotten to play shows, I have heard some of the best music out of all of you this past year. So thank you so much for inspiring me," she said.

Collaborating onstage was the theme of the awards show, and Morris and hubby Ryan Hurd sang together, ending

with a kiss. A teary-eyed Morris won song of the year for her Grammy-nominated hit "The Bones," which topped the country music charts for months last year.

Morris lost single of the year, where all of the nominated songs were performed by female artists. Carly Pearce and Lee Brice's platinum duet, "I Hope You're Happy Now," won the prize.

"We wrote this song about my story and I guess it resonated with everybody," Pearce said onstage, also thanking busbee, who produced the song and died in late 2019. "This is the last song that my producer worked on."

Another tender moment came when Blanco Brown presented Old Dominion with group of the year. It marked Brown's first public appearance Sunday after suffering significant injuries in a head-on vehicle collision last year.

But the entire three-hour show didn't go smoothly. The Grammy-winning duo Dan + Shay performed their latest hit, "Glad You Exist," but the pre-taped moment aired out of sync.

Schedule collide when mother and daughter share a car

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl, and I'm having a conflict with my mom over my car. Her car broke down and she needed to use mine, which is completely understandable, and I agreed. However, I have a work schedule I have to stick to, and I need my car to get to and from. I pay all the bills for it, and the title is in my grandfather's name.

I asked her to let me use my car to get to and from work and for Valentine's Day with my boyfriend. She seemed extremely upset by it, and now she and my stepdad continually tell me that should she EVER need the car, I have to give it to her.

While I understand she needs it to get to and from work, and I'm willing to be flexible so she can, her demand that I not use it the entire time hers is in the shop (majority of this time is on a weekend when she's not working) is completely unacceptable because I also have responsibilities.

How do I help her understand that while she can use it for work because that is important, when I need it after her work hours, I should be able to use it because I pay for it? Must I just suck it up and let her continue using it (putting my relationship with my boyfriend at risk and possibly having to walk five miles to work in bad weather) or tell her the days I need it are absolute, and since it is my car, I will be using it?

CONFUSED IN MISSOURI

DEAR CONFUSED: While I agree with the concept of "yours" and "mine," there are times when family has to pull together.

On the grand scale of things at this point, your mom's responsibilities as an adult are more important than your love life. If your boyfriend thinks so little of you that your being carless on a special occasion will destroy your relationship, then that relationship isn't destined to last forever.

If lacking access to your car means you would have to trudge five miles in bad weather to and from work, ask your stepdad or your grandfather if—in an emergency—one of them can transport you. But do not attempt to lay down the law to your mother, or I guarantee you will not like the consequences.

DEAR ABBY: There is this guy that I like a lot. I want to ask him out, but it recently came to my attention that we have a mutual ex-boyfriend. Should I bring it up or let it go? He is friends with our shared ex on Facebook, and I don't know what to do.

GUY WITH A CRUSH IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GUY: Once the quarantine and social distanc-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ing are lifted, ask him out. When you do, I think it would be wise to disclose this information to your crush because it will become apparent soon enough. If things move forward, there will likely be pictures posted on Facebook. If you try to sweep it under the carpet, he will think you are doing it because you have something to hide. Introduce the subject this way: "Small world, isn't it?"

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Bam! Adebayo's jumper lifts Heat past Nets, 109-107



MIAMI (AP)—Bam Adebayo was supposed to call timeout. He had another idea. This was the scenario that he had envisioned in his mind so many times, game tied, crowd on its feet, ball in his hands, final seconds ticking away.

"Your moment," Adebayo told himself.

He delivered — when the Miami Heat needed him most.

Adebayo drove left, stopped and watched his 13-foot jumper rattle in as time expired, a shot that allowed the Heat to beat the Brooklyn Nets 109-107 on Sunday to snap a three-game slide.

"He handled it the right way," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He looked over to the bench, and at that point we just made eye contact. My hands were up, and it was like, 'OK, it just better be the last shot.'"

It was. Adebayo had 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by six points in the final minutes before finishing the game on a 10-2 run.

Goran Dragic scored 18 points, Kendrick Nunn scored 17 and Trevor Ariza had 15 for Miami.

Landry Shamet had 30 points for Brooklyn, and Kyrie Irving scored 20 for the Nets. Brooklyn played again without James Harden, sidelined with a hamstring issue, and lost Kevin Durant early in the first quarter with a left thigh

contusion.

"He's sore, but we don't know how severe it is," Brooklyn coach Steve Nash said.

Jimmy Butler — who called the Heat "soft" after their loss Friday in Minnesota — was held out by Miami with a sprained right ankle, his 16th game missed this season.

It was close the entire way, Miami never leading by more than seven, Brooklyn never by more than five until the final minutes. The Heat matched that seven-point edge when Dragic's layup with 6:50 remaining made it 99-92, but the Nets scored the next 13 points to reclaim the lead.

Bruce Brown had a layup to start the spurt, then got an offensive rebound into the hands of Joe Harris to set up a 3-pointer, and Shamet made back-to-back 3s to put the Nets up by four. Those 11 points came in a span of exactly 2 minutes, and a goaltending call credited another basket to Harris for a 105-99 lead with 4:04 left.

Brooklyn was 0 for 5 from the field the rest of the way.

"They were playing well, hitting a lot of shots, so you've got to give credit, like I always say," Irving said. "But there were definitely some preventable plays out there that I feel like just could have been better."

Miami controlled the finish, and needed to. A loss would have left Miami 2½ games behind New York in the race for the Eastern Conference's No. 6 spot that will keep a team out of the play-in tournament. Instead, the Heat remained 1½ back with 15 games remaining.

"A season can turn around real fast," Adebayo said.

Durant left 4:03 into the game, after scoring Brooklyn's first eight points. He was fouled on a drive 1:33 into the contest and missed both free throws — only the second time this season that he went 0 for 2 on a trip to the foul line.

He left not long afterward, and the Nets quickly declared his day over. Durant has missed 33 of Brooklyn's 57 games.

Clippers 124, Timberwolves 105

In Los Angeles, Paul George led five starters in double figures with 23 points and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-105 on Sunday night for their eighth win in nine games.

Kawhi Leonard had 15 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in his return from a four-game absence because of a sore right foot. Fans attending a Clippers game at Staples Center for the first time in over a year saw their team hit a season-high 21 3-pointers.

Anthony Edwards scored

23 points to lead the Wolves, who dropped their sixth in a row on the road. Karl-Anthony Towns added 16 points on 5-of-15 shooting. He missed five of six 3s.

"Came in cool, acting like we were supposed to get two in a row. Wasn't the right way to approach the game," Towns said. "We don't have that many wins, so there's no reason to have that kind of cockiness."

Raptors 112, Thunder 106

In Tampa, Fla., Chris Boucher had 31 points and 11 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors extended Oklahoma City's season-worst losing streak to 10 games, beating the Thunder 112-106 on Sunday night.

Gary Trent Jr. added 23 points for Toronto, which has won three straight. Malachi Flynn had 15 points and eight rebounds.

Luguentz Dort led the Thunder with 29 points, 21 of them coming in the first quarter of what shaped up as a duel (with Boucher) of players with Montreal roots.

"It put some pep in my step a little bit. It definitely put some more energy into the game," Boucher said. "I just want people to realize we have guys from Montreal that are really talented. It was an exciting showcase just to show people what we have."

"They both probably wanted to put on a show tonight and they both did it," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said.

Darius Bazley added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who have lost 13 of 14 since leading scorer Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was sidelined last month by a right foot injury.

Hornets 109, Trail Blazers 101

In Charlotte, N.C., Terry Rozier told coach James Borrego before Sunday night's game that the Charlotte Hornets needed a win over Portland, and that he was available to play extra minutes, if needed.

Rozier broke loose 34 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds in 39 minutes, and the Hornets rode a strong first quarter to a 109-101 win over the Trail Blazers, snapping a four-game losing streak and moving to .500.

"He was great tonight," Borrego said. "He came out and set the tone and was making shots. It has to be one of his finest performances as a Hornet."

P.J. Washington had 23 points and eight rebounds after missing three games with an ankle injury, and Miles Bridges added 19 points, including two highlight-reel dunks, for



AP
Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) is mobbed by teammates after he made the winning shot against the Brooklyn Nets at the end of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 18, 2021, in Miami.

cans that would've won it and then opened overtime with a steal and layup to give New York the lead for good.

Kings 121, Mavericks 107

In Dallas, De'Aaron Fox had 30 points and 12 rebounds, Harrison Barnes scored 24 and Terence Davis II added 23 as the Sacramento Kings snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 121-107 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

Barnes scored 11 in the third quarter as the Kings built a 21-point lead midway through the period. Sacramento, which never trailed, held off a late Dallas run that cut the lead to six with 3½ minutes left.

"Our communication was better, our rebounding was better, our shot challenging was better," Kings coach Luke Walton said.

Luka Doncic scored 37 points, 22 in the fourth quarter, for the Mavericks, who dropped their fourth straight home game. Dorian Finney-Smith scored 22 points, one short of his season high, and Jalen Brunson added 20 off the bench.

Hawks 129, Pacers 117

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 34 points, Clint Capela had 25 points and 24 rebounds and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Indiana Pacers 129-117 on Sunday.

Bogdan Bogdanovic and Kevin Huerter each chipped in 23 points and Young had 11 assists for the Hawks, who have won eight of 10 and are 17-6 under interim coach Nate McMillan. Atlanta has won nine of 11 at home.

Young loved how the Hawks kept pushing the ball offensively and giving the Pacers fits. Indiana endured long gaps when it didn't get back in transition quickly enough or let the Hawks have wide-open looks.

"It was tough to do that when guys are knocking down shots and guys are knocking down 3s like they were and Clint doing what he's doing in the paint," Young said. "It's hard to double a guy in a situation like that."

Malcolm Brogdon finished with 29 points and Domantas Sabonis and T.J. McConnell scored 18 apiece for Indiana, which had won five of seven on the road.

NBA fines Spurs for violating resting rules in game they won

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA fined the San Antonio Spurs \$25,000 on Sunday for violating the league's player resting policy — in a game the Spurs won by 26 points.

The Spurs sat DeMar DeRozan, Patty Mills and Jakob Poeltl to give them rest on Saturday night in Phoenix. It didn't matter, as six Spurs players scored in double figures in a 111-85 rout of the Suns.

According to the league's resting policy, teams should not rest multiple healthy players for the same game. When they do rest healthy players, it is supposed to be in home games.

Under Gregg Popovich, the Spurs have long rested players even when they are healthy, one of the reasons the league first implemented a resting policy in 2017. Teams can be fined \$100,000 for violating it.

the Hornets (28-28).

Rozier knew the Hornets needed a win as they fight to earn a top-six seed in the play-offs and avoid a play-in game situation.

Rockets 114, Magic 110

In Orlando, Fla., Christian Wood scored 25 points, Kelly Olynyk added 24 and the Houston Rockets used a strong offensive showing in the third quarter to rally past the Orlando Magic 114-110 on Sunday night.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored 22 and made four 3-pointers before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter as the Rockets snapped a five-game losing streak and a five-game road skid. Armoni Brooks chipped in 16 points and another five 3-pointers for a Houston squad that shot 51.2% from the floor and hit 16 3-pointers.

"We did a better job of executing, especially in the second half when we locked in," said Wood, who added 10 rebounds for his 17th double-double of the season. "I told coach I wanted to close the game out, and my team trusted me to close the game. I feel like I did a great job of executing."

Down as many as 12 points late in the first half, Houston used an 18-2 burst in the third quarter to flip the game. Flat offensively in the early going, Houston made 55% of its shots and hit five 3-pointers in the third quarter to outscore Orlando 32-18 in the period.

Knicks 122, Pelicans 112

In New York, the Knicks' longest winning streak in seven years was seconds away from ending and the New Orleans Pelicans were told what to do to stop it.

They didn't follow instructions, and a few minutes later the Knicks were still rolling right along.

Julius Randle had 33 points and 10 assists, Derrick Rose made huge plays all over the court to spark New York's streak-saving finish and the Knicks beat the Pelicans 122-112 in overtime on Sunday for their sixth consecutive victory.

"I mean I haven't had this feeling in a long time, let alone be on a winning streak," Rose said. "So I'm grateful to be in this situation."

Rose scored 23 points. He had the assist on Reggie Bullock's 3-pointer with 2.3 seconds left in regulation, blocked a last shot by the Pelicans.

Tsutsugo's big hit off Cole gives Rays 3-game sweep of Yanks



NEW YORK
(AP)—The

last-place New York Yankees lost their fifth straight game as Yoshi Tsutsugo hit a tiebreaking double off Gerrit Cole in the seventh inning that lifted the Tampa Bay Rays to a 4-2 win Sunday and a three-game sweep.

Four pitchers combined on the Rays' second three-hitter of a series in which New York managed 11 hits in all.

Cole (2-1) was hurt by slipshod defense that made three mistakes in the third inning alone, two by center fielder Aaron Hicks and one by left fielder Clint Frazier.

Joey Wendle added a ninth-inning home run off Darren O'Day.

Tampa Bay has won 18 of its last 23 against the Yankees, including in last year's Division Series.

Ryan Yarbrough (2-1) followed opener Andrew Kittredge and allowed one run and two hits in five innings. Diego Castillo got four outs, and Jeffrey Springs pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his first big league save.

Padres 5, Dodgers 2

In San Diego, Eric Hosmer delivered the tying and go-ahead RBIs in the seventh and eighth innings, helping San Diego beat Los Angeles to avoid a sweep in the first series of the year between the NL West rivals.

Dodgers starter Trevor Bauer handed off a 2-1 lead to Los Angeles' bullpen after six innings in tight duel with another Cy Young Award winner, Blake Snell. Hosmer doubled in the tying run in the seventh off Brusdar Graterol, then delivered the decisive blow in the eighth.

Keone Kela (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the Padres and Mark Melancon notched his sixth save. Scott Alexander (0-1) took the loss.

Indians 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Shane Bieber kept up his record strikeout run, fanning 13 and pitching Cleveland past Cincinnati.

Bieber (2-1) became the first pitcher in big league history to begin a season with four straight starts with at least 10 strikeouts.

The AL Cy Young Award winner has 48 strikeouts this year, matching Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan for the most through the first four start of a season. Bieber has fanned at least eight in a 16 straight starts, one short of Randy Johnson's major league mark.

Bieber went eight innings, allowing three runs and six hits with two walks.

Emmanuel Clase struck out the side in the ninth, again hitting 100 mph with his heater,



to earn his fourth save.

The Indians hit three home runs, all with two outs, to salvage a win in the all-Ohio series.

Roberto Pérez hit a three-run homer off Wade Miley (2-1) over the center field wall with two on in the fourth inning for a 4-0 lead.

Phillies 2, Cardinals 0

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola struck out 10 and threw a two-hitter for his first nine-inning shutout in the majors, leading Philadelphia past St. Louis.

Bryce Harper homered and had three hits for the Phillies. His 111.8 mph shot off righty John Gant (0-1) went 425 feet.

Nola (1-1) threw 109 pitches and did little more than give a small fist bump when he completed the milestone.

Gant struck out five and walked five in five innings. Alec Bohm touched him for a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning for a 2-0 lead.

Braves 13, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Freddie Freeman crushed one of four homers in the first inning against Kyle Hendricks, leading Atlanta past Chicago.

Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. departed in the fourth due to pain in his lower abdominal muscles.

Travis d'Arnaud, Ehire Adrianza and Guillermo Heredia also connected during the Braves' fast start, and Heredia added his first career grand slam in the sixth for his first multihomer game.

Bryse Wilson (1-0) pitched five innings of three-run ball in his first appearance of the season.

Anthony Rizzo hit two solo drives for Chicago, which lost for the sixth time

in eight games.

Hendricks (0-2) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in four innings in his first start since April 7.

Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Madison Bumgarner had his best outing of the season, allowing a run over five innings as Arizona beat Washington.

Bumgarner (1-2) gave up just two hits and dropped his ERA from 11.20 to 8.68 through four starts. He struck out five and walked one, helping Arizona split the four-game series.

Stefan Crichton earned his first save of the season.

Scheduled starter Stephen Strasburg was a late scratch for Washington. He was placed on the 10-day injured list with right shoulder inflammation.

Paulo Espino (0-1) pitched 4 1/3 innings and allowed solo homers to Josh Rojas and Carson Kelly.

Trea Turner hit two solo homers for the Nationals.

Giants 1, Marlins 0

In Miami, Alex Wood pitched five innings in his season debut and four relievers completed a three-hitter as San Francisco scored an unearned run to beat Miami and avert a series sweep.

Wood (1-0), returning from a back problem that sidelined him midway through spring training, allowed three hits and walked none.

Tyler Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his first save to complete the Giants' third shutout in their past seven games.

Pablo López (0-2) had a career-high nine strikeouts and allowed only an unearned run in six innings.

Mets 2, Rockies 1

In Denver, Marcus Stroman pitched eight innings of one-run ball and made a dazzling defensive play, catcher James McCann threw out Trevor Story attempting to steal second for the final out and New York beat Colorado.

J.D. Davis delivered an RBI single and Jeff McNeil had an RBI groundout for the Mets, who have won five of six, including two of three at Coors Field this weekend.

Charlie Blackmon had an RBI single for the Rockies, who have lost eight of nine.

Stroman (3-0) allowed three hits and struck out five. In the eighth, the right-hander shuffled quickly off the mound to his right and reached behind his back with his glove to snag Josh Fuentes' grounder.

Edwin Díaz earned his second save with a scoreless ninth.

Antonio Senzatela (1-3) went six innings and gave up two runs on five hits.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 2, 1st game White Sox 5, Red Sox 1, 2nd game

In Boston, Yermín Mercedes opened a three-run fourth inning with a long homer, and Chicago swept a doubleheader against Boston.

Nick Madrigal had two hits and drove in two runs for Chicago, which climbed back to .500 at 8-8.

In the opener, Tim Anderson homered on the game's first pitch and Dallas Keuchel pitched five solid innings for Chicago.

J.D. Martinez had an RBI single for Boston's lone run in the second game.

Mercedes hit a changeup from Martín Pérez (0-1) off a backwall behind the batter's eye, a drive estimated at 431 feet.

^{AP}
Tampa Bay Rays players congratulate designated hitter Yoshi Tsutsugo, center, who drove in the go-ahead run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Sunday, April 18, 2021, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Matt Foster (1-1) got five outs in scoreless relief for the win.

The Red Sox wore their yellow-and-blue City Series uniforms in the first game for the second straight day, honoring the Boston Marathon with the colors that stretch across the finish line of the famous race.

Yasmani Grandal had an RBI double and Yoán Moncada drove in a run with a single for the White Sox. Keuchel (1-0) gave up two runs and Liam Hendriks got the final three outs for his second save.

Anderson sent a 96.8 mph fastball from Tanner Houck (0-2) into Boston's bullpen.

Royals 2, Blue Jays 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez tapped his bat twice on the plate to make sure it wasn't cracked, then sent the next pitch he saw from reliever T.J. Zeuch into the left-field fountains, breaking open a scoreless game and sending Kansas City past Toronto.

Brady Singer kept the Blue Jays off the board through six innings. Kyle Zimmer (1-0) and Josh Staumont each worked a perfect inning, and Greg Holland finished off the two-hitter for his second save of the season.

Perez's two-run shot off Zeuch (0-2) in the seventh inning came one day after his two-out, walk-off homer gave the Royals a 3-2 win and split of their doubleheader.

Kansas City also won the opener Thursday night to take a series from Toronto for the first time since September 2017.

Pirates 6, Brewers 5, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Colin Moran hit an early three-run homer, then had an RBI double in the 10th inning that sent Pittsburgh past Milwaukee.

The Pirates withstood a two-homer performance from Milwaukee's Daniel Vogelbach to win the deciding game of this series.

Pittsburgh's Bryan Reynolds and Milwaukee's Avisail García also homered.

Moran hit a leadoff double off J.P. Feyerisen (0-1) to bring home automatic runner Bryan Reynolds from second base.

Richard Rodríguez (1-0) earned the win with two innings of perfect relief. Rodríguez has allowed one hit, one walk and no runs in 6 1/3 innings this season.

Rangers 1, Orioles 0, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Nate Lowe singled with two outs and the bases loaded in the 10th inning, giving Texas the win over Baltimore after a pitcher's duel between a pair of opening day starters.

The hit ended a five-game home losing streak for the Rangers. In the top of the 10th, Rangers right fielder Adolis García threw out Maikel Franco at the plate.

Lowe grounded a single to left against the shift off Travis Lakins Sr. (1-1), ending a stretch of 13 2/3 scoreless innings for the Baltimore bullpen.

John King (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th for the Rangers.

When he started the top of the 10th at second base, Franco was just the fifth runner to get that far in a game dominated by Texas' Kyle Gibson and Baltimore's John Means.

Athletics 3, Tigers 2

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Olson scored from second base on a fielding error by Detroit third baseman Jeimer Candelario with two outs in the ninth inning, rallying Oakland past Detroit for its eighth straight win.

Sean Murphy hit a tying home run in the eighth as the A's swept the four-game series. Lou Trivino (1-0) retired three batters for the win.

Olson hit a one-out double off Gregory Soto (1-0) when Tigers center fielder Victor Reyes lost a high fly ball in the sun. After Matt Chapman struck out looking, Murphy walked before pinch-hitter Mitch Moreland hit a sharp grounder that rolled under Candelario's glove into left field.

Mariners 7, Astros 2

In Seattle, Ty France hit a two-run home run and six Seattle pitchers combined on a one-hitter against depleted Houston.

France followed Mitch Haniger's two-run triple with a blast to left field in the decisive four-run fifth inning to give the Mariners the series.

The loss was Houston's seventh in its last eight games and comes with five players — still on the injured list due to COVID-19 concerns.

Seattle starter Nick Margevicius left in the top of the fifth with an undisclosed injury trailing 2-1 after giving up one hit and one unearned run while striking out three. LJay Newsome (1-0), Casey Sadler, Anthony Misiewicz, Rafael Montero and Drew Steckenrider combined for five innings of hitless relief.

Houston starter Jake Odorizzi (0-2) struck out seven and walked three in 4 1/3 innings.

Inaugural Spirit of Ohala Run on May 7

The Ohala Foundation will be hosting the inaugural Spirit of Ohala Island Run on May 7, 2021. The run will be a self-paced, open walk or run of either 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, or Full Marathon.

"This event will further our efforts to support one of our goals of purchasing food for our food-box distributions to families with financial challenges," Ohala chair Phillip Mendiola-Long said.

Registration fee is \$49 in which 100% of the funds raised will go toward these food-box supplies. Entrants can choose the length of their walk/run, where to run and the length of time to complete it. When runners complete their registered distance, they will be asked to submit a photo of their distance on any runner's application in which steps or distance is measured.

Upon verification of the distance, via the photo evidence submitted, the runner will be sent a very large (2.75x3.00 inches) and stunning metallic medal with lanyard depicting the distance completed. Runners will be asked to pay a small shipping and handling fee of \$9.95 for shipping U.S. Domestic and \$19.95 for international shipments so that the medal can arrive within three weeks after completing the walk/run.

"This is a unique approach to a popular event with the current times in mind. We encourage everyone to join in,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Spirit of Ohala Island Run medal that will be given to participants of the inaugural Spirit of Ohala Island Run.



support a great cause and earn a medal for their efforts. Finish your target distance, time and location of your choosing. Not only will you be supporting a great cause, you'll be united with runners and walkers all over the world as you all share the thrill of crossing the finish line and earning your unique and amazing medal. Start a collection or add to an existing one. Our creative team spent many hours designing this custom medal and ribbon that reflects our islands, our mission, and this unique event." Mendiola-Long added.

For more information and how to register and pay via PayPal, visit ohalafoundation.org.

The Ohala Foundation has provided assistance to over 400 families that are facing food shortages and would like to thank those generous sponsors and the community for their support.

Interested donors can reach out to the Foundation by visiting ohalafoundation.org or by calling (670) 433-2664.

Guided by the principles that man must help his fellow man, the Ohala Foundation's mission is to work exhaustively to raise

critically needed funds; and serve as the managing body for a Mariana Islands-based community assistance organization. The cornerstone of that organization is the Ohala Food Bank, which under the Ohala Foundation's leadership, provides free food, free meals, and free disaster food assistance to those who are the most vulnerable in our communities. The Foundation also offers career, medical and clothing services.

For more information on how to donate, volunteer or avail of services please visit www.ohalafoundation.org or call 670-433-2664. (PR)

Inas' Kitchen sponsors Chamber Scholarship Golf Tournament

Saipan Chamber of Commerce extends its appreciation to Inas' Kitchen, who has signed as a major "Over Easy" Sponsor of the SCC Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament.



Sonnie Sablan, co-owner of Inas' Kitchen and 2019 Saipan Young Professional of the Year Nominee, is no stranger to the importance of vocational education. As a graduate of the Western Culinary Institute Le Cordon Bleu Program and a native of Saipan, Sablan is an example of how vocational education positively contributes to our economy and community.

"We're proud that the Scholarship Golf Tournament is funding the next generation of vocational schol-

ars, just like Mr. Sablan, to help create more locally grown businesses and careers," shared chairman of the SCC Golf Tournament Shayne Villanueva. "Inas' Kitchen is a small business that has stepped up in a big way, and we're grateful for their support of our tournament and our scholars."

The SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 22, 2021. Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipan-chamber.com/events. Players can save time and money with discounted rates before May 7th. Contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com for more info. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce Financial and Data Management coordinator Franco Santos, Inas' Kitchen co-owner Sonnie Sablan, and Inas' Kitchen co-owner Rita Sablan.

GECKOS

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(14.95m) and Isla Montessori School's Georgia Baetge (14.40m) were the runners-up.

BSS' Aiden Camacho prevented a Geckos sweep in the softball throw by dominating the boys 12U. He obviously woke up on the right side of the bed Friday morning with a mighty throw of 36.7m. SIS' Landon Pudney was second and Akeen Evalson third with throws of 27.75m and 25.5m, respectively.

The qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All

Schools Track and Field Championship continues tomorrow with Williams S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School, and Oleai Elementary School on tap. The middle school and high school qualifiers will start on Thursday.

Public School System athletic director Nick Gross, who has been doing a yeoman's job in coordinating nearly all school-based sports on island, reiterated he's just glad that elementary, middle school, and high school sports are back after a year lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After missing out on the

All Schools Track and Field season last year due to COVID-19, we're super excited to bring it back online this year! As the CNMI prepares to host the 2022 Pacific Mini Games next year as well as send a delegation to the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands in July of 2022, it is imperative that we initiate our athletic programs once again," he said.

Gross added that elementary, middle school, and high school sports is the epitome of grass roots development, adding they've been following the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's guidelines during the

course of the All Schools.

"This will assist us in bringing back our athletes as well as identifying new recruits. Our qualifying events have been shortened to mitigate exposure to possible COVID-19 and have been screening all participants upon arrival through temperature screenings, as well as having sanitizer available throughout the events and encouraging the use of masks when not competing."

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics.

BUCO

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Shop and its owner Mae Cabrera," he added.

Buco also gave kudos to event organizer Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 and hopes they will stage another cycling event in the future.

Finishing second to Buco was Nap Dizon and rounding out the Top 3 was Mark Isip.

Matching Buco almost pedal by pedal is 15-year-old J.C. Ferrer, who kept pace with the lead peloton and beat women cyclists twice her age in capturing first place in the women's open

road bike category. The daughter of veteran cyclist Bob and Tisha Ferrer finished the race a mere 10 seconds after Buco in an unofficial time of 1:46.00.

"I didn't really expected to win. I never really had a lot of practice because of COVID-19 so I had difficulty sticking with the main group. My breathing was also bad so I really had trouble maintaining the speed [of the lead peloton]. It's also been raining the past few weeks so it cut down on my already limited practice time," she said.

The younger Ferrer, who took up the sport only four years ago, said she wouldn't

have finished first in the open women division much less completed the three-lap 60-kilometer race without the help of her father.

"I told my dad to focus on his own race but knowing my dad he kept looking back at me worrying about me. To all his sacrifices, I dedicate this victory to him," said the Marianas High School student.

Ayano Braxton and Jay Anne Felipe came in second and third, respectively, in the women's open road bike category.

Results of the mountain bike as well as age group categories in the 19-and-under,

20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-and-up will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Emon Masonic Lodge awarded the Top 3 winners of each division with medals and other prizes during the awards ceremony held Sunday night at Rendezvous Restaurant.

The 2021 Padyakan Saipaan was originally set for March 20, but was moved back nearly a month after Saipan recorded a small cluster of COVID-19 cases early last month. *Padyakan* is a Filipino word which loosely means to pedal.

CHAE

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with her own aggression and prevailed to force the super tiebreaker, 6-2. In the race-to-10, Chae outworked Park en route to winning the match, 10-5, to advance to the next round.

There were four other super tiebreakers Sunday. In the boys singles 14, top seed June Yu struggled but ultimately survived Henry Choi, 5-7, 6-2, 10-4. In the boys singles 12, Ryan Choi took the long route in prevailing over Jihun Park, 3-6, 6-4, 10-2, while Emmon Tang upset No. 3 Ki Won Lee, 7-5, 3-6, 10-7. Finally, Min Seong Kim outlasted Sam Culp in the boys singles 16 after a marathon score of 4-6, 6-4, 13-11.

In the other end of the scoring spectrum, boys singles 12 second seed Yutaka Kadokura blanked Ian Chae, 6-0, 6-0, while Ji Ho Park had an easier

6-0 victory over Michael Min Joon in the boys singles 10.

In the other matches in the boys singles 12, No. 1 Si Woe Lee topped Landon Pudney, 6-1, 6-1, Stephen Yeom took out Taher Shakir, 6-2, 6-4, and No. 4 Nathan Wessel was a 6-2, 6-0 winner over Henry Yeom.

In the girls singles 14, Anne Lee got the better of Isa Nishitani, 6-1, 7-6 (4), top seed Irin Chung overcame Savita Sikkil, 6-2, 6-3, and No. 2 Hoo Wang beat Anna Jieun Kwon, 6-3, 6-2.

In the lone girls singles 18 match, Sei Yul Hong triumphed over Yebin Shin, 6-2, 6-2.

Results of the doubles division last Sunday will be published in tomorrow's *Saipan Tribune*.

The 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament is being conducted with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.



Bam! Adebayo's jumper lifts Heat past Nets, 109-107

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Buco, Ferrer top Padyakan



MARK RABAGO
Veteran cyclist Joel Buco raises his bike shortly after topping the open road bike division of last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Veteran cyclist Joel Buco proved to be a tough nut to crack for the rest of the field in last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan that started and ended at the picturesque Banzai Cliff in Marpi.



MARK RABAGO
J.C. Ferrer thanked her dad, veteran biker Bob, for helping her top the women's open road bike division of last Sunday's 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan.



The 48-year-old The Water-Company employee was the swiftest in the 60-kilometer race that had its turnaround at Seafix Inc. in Tanapag and crossed the finish line with an unofficial time of 1:45:50.

Buco, who has lost count on how many road races he has won since returning to the sport in 2018, admitted that he didn't really took the 2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan seriously until the last 10 kilometers of the race.

"I actually was just supporting a friend of mine and just gave it my all in the last lap. I tried to jump in front in the final 10 minutes and fortunately it was a success. I made my move after the turnaround at Seafix," he said in Filipino.

The Nueva Ecija, Philippines native dedicated his latest win to his wife Mary Jane, and their three children—Jomari, Justine, and Joshua.

"I also want to thank all the bikers on Saipan for their continued support and of course to my sponsor, 670 Rocksteady

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Chae beats Park in super tiebreak Sunday



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hannah Chae got an unexpected workout from unheralded Jeong Bin Park in the girls singles 12 division of the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The No. 1 seed went down early and often in the first set as an aggressive Park hit all her shots and scored an upset in the opening set, 6-4. Chae, however, woke up from her slumber in the second set and gave Park a dose of her down medicine

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Hanah Chae, seen here in a file photo, beat Jeong Bin Park in their girls singles 12 last Sunday in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Geckos dominate All Schools softball throw

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There's something in the water in As Lito as students of Saipan International School won three of four categories in last Friday's debut of the softball throw event in the qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field.

In the boys 9U, SIS' Dean Duenas proved to all and sundry that he has the strongest arm in the division with a throw of 17.9m. He was followed by Agape Christian School's Benjamin Cai (15.5m) and Brilliant Star School's Xavier Camacho (15.10m).

The Lady Geckos won both their age groups with Beatrice Gross and Faith Arriola topping the 9U and 12U divisions with throws of 19.8m

and 16.7m, respectively. Gross' throw was so impressive that it beat not only Arriola's throw but the best in the boys 9U as well. Coming in second and third in the



9U were Gross' teammates, Yummy Peng (11.10m) and Michelle Im (9.2m). In the 12U, SIS' Aubrey White

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MARK RABAGO

Saipan International School's Landon Pudney in action in the softball throw of the qualifiers for the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship last Friday at the Oleai Track and Field.